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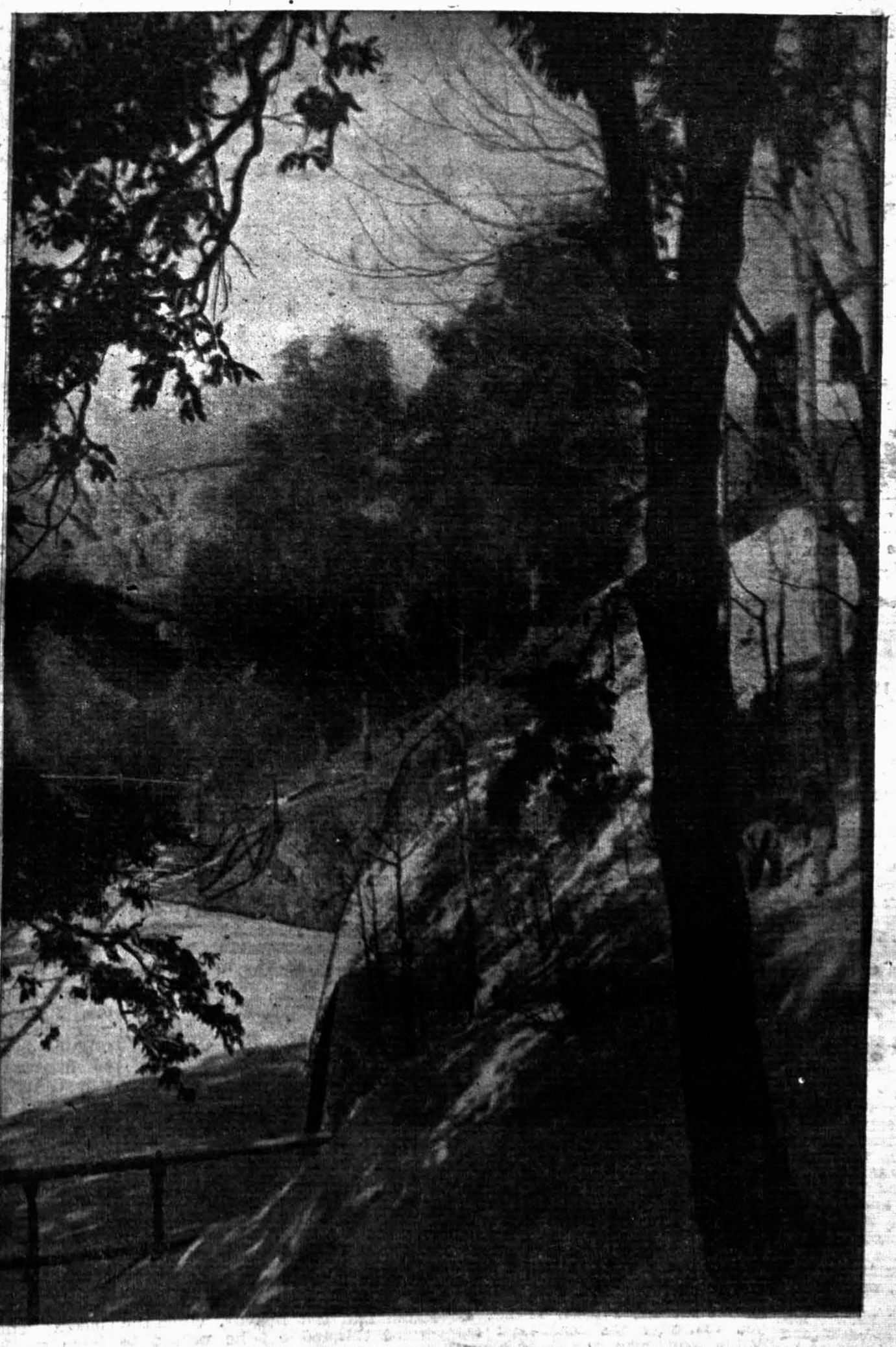
On Way To Mashobra



—Photo: S. R. Tikekar

LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

SOVIET REPORT ON INDIAN PROBLEM

(See Page 3)

A Story Of Bombay's Underworld

The Man Who Committed Suicide

By M. V.

'That was the time I was working with Hafizkhan', Yeshwantrao flicked the ash of his cigarette delicately into the empty tea cup. The expression in his eyes changed. His perpetual, half-mocking smile slowly but perceptibly melted like a movie fade-up.

I do not remember how I picked up this man; "latest exhibit in my menagerie"—my friends maliciously called him. They said I possessed the genius for attracting, magnet-fashion, every scamp in the city of Bombay. In any case, here was I sitting across a table in a restaurant in Hughes Road listening to Yeshwantrao's story.

'You have heard about Hafizkhan, haven't you?' the man was talking more to himself than addressing this question to me. This man thinks I know every criminal in the city, I was telling myself not without a feeling of amusement.

'But perhaps you havn't, Yeshwantrao appeared to guess my thought, 'but you mustn't think he was just another thug. Hafizkhan operated on a big scale. He had had style. He had had plenty of brains.'

'It was exactly fifteen years ago' continued my companion stopping to sip the tea the Mangalorean waiter had brought, 'we were keeping low about cocaine smuggling with all the trouble the Customs sleuths were making—the scandal had shaken New Delhi and high quarters were visibly worried.'

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'You mustn't think we were a lot of dacoits and ordinary criminals who worked underground and just gambled with luck, Yeshwantrao flashed his goldfilled front row of teeth. 'Hafiz ran many lines in honest business. He owned boats that brought fish from the coast down the Konkan. It was as honest a business as you could make it. No doubt we sailed, when the Coast Guard was busy elsewhere or was having his well-earned spot of pleasure at M.....into the Goa waters and turned out a bit of extra profit!

'But Hafiz was a thoroughgoing crook. He used fish for a screen for cocaine, silver or 'feni' alcohol, our inland organization collected down the Terekhol creek. You can't suspect a cocaine-smuggler in a fish-monger, can you? But there's hardly any quick money in fish, you understand?'

I understood of course. I had lived long enough to understand most of the things Yeshwantrao was telling me. I wasn't a policeman, nor did I earn my living in collecting news about crime. But if you are human and move about with your eyes and ears open, you come to know many things that the policeman or professional sleuth alone is supposed to know particularly if you have worked on a newspaper.

'I was Hafizkhan's Handyman and the man knew enough of human nature to trust me. I am 'not' a criminal', Yeshwantrao's eyes appeared to assume a strange expression that you see in the eyes of persons who are deeply moved may be I am a bandit. I've done most things that 'you' probably wouldn't do. You know me as a little shady fellow who works as a 'financial operator'. Which means just blackmail. I pull jobs for other, unquestionably 'decent' fellows. But you don't know my past, never could know it...'

'Hafiz was a crook and knew human nature. He was a daredevil and would have cut your throat with a coolness and piety of the man who cuts the throats of fowls for the price of an anna which he needs for himself and his family. But he was kind to me. He had been my friend and had stood by me when I was like a stray dog wandering the crowded, unsympathetic streets of the city. He had trained and trusted me. I would have done anything for Hafiz. Most people knew their one particular Hafiz. I knew at least half-a-dozen all-in-one-the nearest approach to Hafiz almost as he was to himself. He wasn't to me just the lean, tall, bearded and certainly well-bred businessman talking the language of half-a-dozen lines in the local markets of his fellow-businessmen in the city knew him. He was one of the most astute men I have known in my crowded life of adventure and crime. He was a master-actor and, watching him behind the stage, I wasn't quite sure I knew, after all, the real Hafiz. He was baffling and mystery trailed his long firm stride. Even to this day I don't know whether Hafiz had had any ties in life-wife, children, friends. We had had moments of man-to-man talk. Hafiz was a father to me and no veil hung between Hafiz and me. Yet Hafiz never spoke about his life—which was a closed book. I could see Hafiz relax and I have seen him sitting quietly and dreaming for hours on end with the hookah-tube in the corner of his mouth. What was he dreaming? I could never have the courage to ask him...'

'Hafiz the criminal who hardly had had any scruples in everything he did was a better father—or mother—to me. He treated me like his son. He watched over and probably pitied my youth and inexperience in life. Hafiz, I knew, ran a chain of brothels and controlled a network of organization. He was connected in one capacity or other with white-slave traffic, whether the creatures came across the oceans as 'danseuses' and 'theatrical artists' and evaded the Foreigners' Act and police vigilance, or left their parental homes and nature's luxurious beauty that's Kashmir where poverty amongst the simple peasants worked insidiously like a deadly poison, Hafiz had a good deal to do with it although he was personally known to have no attraction for women. His one mistress to whom he was devoted was—cocaine. And he possessed the drug-addict's lucidity...'

'I always acted as Hafiz' trusted lieutenant. Although I was in charge of what the police call intelligence work, I could take a hand in any line. Hafiz had personally trained me in everything. He even sought my advice in some matters and the toughest gangster in the city would look up to me with the mixed feeling of spontaneous respect and fear that power always exerted. I was a power, my friend, believe it or not...'

Yeshwantrao took out his cigarette-case and offered me a cigarette. He remained silent as he puffed out rings of blue smoke and watched them with dreamy intensity. He looked at me with a new expression. He was thinking of something and I could, with my experience of this personality, vaguely guess of what.

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'The break came.. when was it?' Yeshwantrao carefully flicked his cigaretteash,' about the time of Habib's murder, I mean suicide. Do you remember the sensational case of the young man who threw himself from the fifth floor of a building when the police raided the place for gambling?'

'Perhaps you don't, how should you —unless you were mixed up in it?' he apologized for me, 'I was mixed up in it. And I have not breathed a word about it to anyone before. It's a long story, but I'll make it as short as possible.'

'Hafiz' organization controlled every gambling den. But the biggest establishment in the city was run under Hafiz's personal supervision. It was a hightone affair with all comforts and style that any decent club could envy except of course women. Hafiz had his own ideas about these things. He never mixed his brothels with his gamblers just as real drunkards never mix their drinks.

'The place, as you can imagine, was well-camouflaged. It occupied practically the whole of a floor consisting of a couple of flats. But you entered it through the flat of a large family—part of the organization. The usual precautions had been taken and the clientele was carefully chosen so that no single loop-hole was left. Old Hafiz knew how to spend money!

'That night the 'habitues' had gathered as usual. The attendance was full and as midnight approached those who had lost cleared out one by one after paying up or making the usual arrangements. Hafiz was a reasonable man and would accept an IOU or post-dated cheque and he was much too respected amongst his patrons to have to put up with any evasion or trickery.'

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'It was two o'clock and I was asked by Hafiz to stay on so that we could drive back together. I was lying down comfortably in a sofa and could watch the play without difficulty .The hall was empty but for a dozen men including Habib. I was rather surprised to see Habib staying on so late. Hafiz also was interested, apparently, because he signalled one of his men who came up silently and whispered something in his employer's ear. Hafiz looked in the direction of Habib's table and frowned I didn't like the look on his face....'

'I had known Habib because he was one of the men whom everybody knows. Tall, handsome and full of spirit, he was a popular figure in every circle. He had nothing of the ordinary gambler about him. Son of a well-known family with fairly wealthy parents, he had nothing much to worry about. He came to our gambling establishment like most men who are attracted by a sense of adventure. Gamblers are not calculating persons or else naturally they would crash the investment market—not that gamblers need play only with cards. In any case Habib gambled as so many young people gamble and somehow Hafiz appeared to dislike him. This night Habib had lost heavily. When the crowd thinned out he walked to Hafiz who asked him politely to pay up or make the usual arrangements. Habib straightened up. 'No' he said 'I'll see myself damned first before I pay you. I have long suspected that your game is not straight: your men are employing dirty tricks.' 'What do you mean ' demanded Hafiz 'nobody had so far had any guts to tell Hafizkhan what you are telling him, Take care'. 'Take care yourself, you dirty crook', Habib, in whom some devil had been roused, flashed back.'

'I half rose with an anxious look. Hafiz showed no apparent emotion, but I knew the volcano was smouldering. I saw the hard glint in his terrible eyes. A big vein stood up in the middle of his forehead. I instinctively, quietly sneaked up to him and touched his sleeve with a gesture of supplication. He brushed me aside without looking at me..'

"I'm a dirty crook, am I?' Hafiz said in his level voice', suppose I am. All I am asking you is to pay up my money and clear out, you puppy'. 'I'm not going to pay any money to a crook like you, go to hell.' 'I'll see you don't leave the place without paying my money. You can give me a pro-note if you haven't cash on you. I'm a reasonable man..' 'What will you do if I refuse to pay?' demanded Habib. 'I'll throw you out of the window into the gutter down below' came the quick retort. 'You son of a sow..! but before Habib completed his sentence Hafiz sprang up, raised him as though he was a baby, rushed to the open window and hurled him out of it.'

'We were all paralysed; continued Yeshwantrao, 'we stood there like statues. I could hardly believe my eyes' testimony. The night was dark and only a faint noise of an occasional passing motor-car floated up. The big fan was spinning in the hall. Hafiz stood looking down below in the cavern of darkness. He pulled at his beard, a familiar gesture with him. That meant that he was thinking. Then on silent feet like an animal of prey, he rushed to the telephone and dialled a number. His voice was husky but clear. It was the police and he gave them the address of the place. He banged the receiver and simply made a sign which his men understood. He walked up and whispered his orders. He signalled me waiting at the door to see the men heap money on the gambling tables. 'Let's clear out before the police come', he said to me. I obeyed like a man reeling from a blow.'

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'Next morning the newspapers published a lurid report of the police raid on a gambling den in the city and arrest of a dozen men. Only one man, cornered by the police, and his retreat cut off had made a mad rush towards the window and clean jumped out of it. He preferred death to infamy.'

'Poor Habib' Yeshwantrao was looking past me as though he saw Habib's ghost, then turned towards me 'you know I'm not a soft fellow. I have always been accustomed to violence and crime. But what I saw that night somehow got me. For weeks I lived a life of unreality. I wasn't just myself. Hafiz argued it out with me. I would just listen to whatever he had to say. I had nothing to say. He asked me not to disgrace him by acting like a silly thing in a saree. I just lost my nerve. It wasn't fear, you need hardly be afraid where Hafiz was concerned. I couldn't tell you what it was. But I was finished with Hafiz. We parted our ways.'

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Both of us sighed. The smooth black asphalt road glistened in the heat. Across the road, the tall eucalyptus tree was in full bloom. The star-like flowers were lying on the edge of the pavement. The gulmohurs stood brave and brilliant in the scorching heat their riotous red dazzling our eyes. Perspiring coolie was pushing a hand-cart.

That was the last time I met and talked with Yeshwantrao, the man with a gold-filled ready grin. He had long disappeared not only out of the city but, as I heard, out of the life he had known and I had known, one man an actor and the other an interested onlooker. I couldn't imagine his taking such a departure out of a life that was so full of crime and human folly.

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ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH

SOVIET REPORT ON THE INDIAN PROBLEM

By A. DYAKOV

For six long years the Soviet press has adopted a sphinx-like attitude towards India. Not a word of sympathy came from Russia, even when this country was passing through the most critical phase of her history! The silence was intriguing—to say the least!

Now "War & Working Class"—the famous Soviet fortnightly—has come out witha report on "The Indian Problem", which is reproduced on this page. The report is factual, dispassionate and non-ideological. In fact it does not even refer to the Communist Party of India! The omission could not have been purely accidental for so well-informed a writer as M. Dyakov seems to be.

Readers will draw their ownconclusions from this contribution. The most noteworthy point is that India is so prominently featured in such an influential Soviet journal on the eve of San Francisco!

India, one of the most ancient and greatest countries in the world, has always attracted the attention of the whole of civilized mankind. So vast is this country that, although the largest colony that ever existed, she is rightly called a sub-continent. She is extremely rich in the most diverse natural resources. With her nearly 400,000,000 population she is an inexhaustible reservoir of human energy. For many centuries she was regarded by Europeans as being fabulously rich; she was the object of the avaricious designs of adventurers from all European countries, and upon her has been directed the enquiring gaze of thinkers who have sought in the Orient the key to the riddle of the universe. Already in remote antiquity the peoples of India had developed a very high culture of their own, which exercised no little influence on the mental development of all civilized nations. Despite all this, however, India is not playing a role in the life of modern mankind commensurate with her place in history, her human and natural resources and her potentialities. It is an indisputable fact that this vast country, with her vast potentialities, occupies a very humble place in presentday world politics, economics and culture. This discrepancy is particularly glaring during the present war, which the forces of aggression have thrust upon the freedom-loving nations. Undoubtedly, this discrepancy lies at the basis of the discussion of Indian problems which has been occupying an extremely prominent place in the columns of the British and American press, in parliamentary debates and so forth, since the very beginning of the war.

The opinion has been repeatedly expressed in the British and American press that India must serve as the principal, Allied, military and economic base in the East. Lately, however, the British, and particularly the American press, have been commenting with increasing frequency on the fact that the war has sharply revealed the utterly inadequate development of India's economy.

Industrial Backwardness

The low level of development of the country's productive forces prevents the utilization of her human and natural resources to any considerable extent either under peace or war conditions. The weakness of India's economy is revealed primarily in the field of industry. To characterize the state of heavy industry in India it is sufficient to recall that with a population of 400,000,000, India's output of iron and steel is on the level of that of Canada, whose population does not exceed 12,000,000. The production of steel has grown to some extent during the war, but even today India produces much less steel than was produced before the war by Belgium, which had a population of less than 9,000,000. Machine building, which is the backbone of modern industry, hardly exists in India as a separate branch of industry. Even the textile industry, which is the most developed branch in India, is unable to meet the extremely limited demand of the population. True, during the war certain branches of industry in India have increased output. The production of armaments of various types, explosives and ammunition has been organized. India supplies the Allied troops with clothing, footwear, tents, sacks, etc. A chemical industry has sprung up, and an aircraft assembly plant has been erected. But as the Indian and American press points out, India cannot manufacture her own aircraft, tanks and automobiles because she does not manufacture engines.

A striking illustration of India's low level of industrial development are the respective proportions of value of output of industry and agriculture to total value of output. According to the London *Economist* of December 18, 1943, industrial output accounted for one-fifth and agricultural four-fifths of the total value of output.

India has remained to this day an agrarian country, with industry scarcely developed. Agriculture is the source of livelihood of the overwhelming majority of the population. Fettered by the survivals of feudalism, however, agriculture in India bears the impress of extreme primitiveness. It has long been in a state of stagnation. An index of this state is the fact that, according to official Indian statistics, for the ten years from 1929-1930 to 1938-1939, the sown area of India, far from expanding, had actually shrunk from 228,161,000 acres to 209,400,000 acres. Particularly marked has been the shrinkage of the rice area (from 79,424,000 acres to 69,918,000 acres;) and rice is the staple food crop in a number of the most important provinces such as Bengal, Bihar and others. The area of such important industrial crops as cotton and jute has also shrunk. The yields of the staple agricultural crops in India have remained on a totally inadequate level.

Primitive Agriculture

The stagnation in India's agriculture cannot be attributed to fortuitous causes, such as drought or floods, or to unfavourable climatic conditions. India's climate is favourable for agriculture; it is extremely varied and permits of the cultivation of nearly all the known agricultural crops. In many provinces it is possible to gather two harvests per annum from the same plot. Mighty rivers ensure water for irrigation where that is necessary. The stagnation and deterioration of India's agriculture are due, of course, to the extreme primitiveness of the productive relations that still prevail in the Indian rural districts. Over nine tenths of the total sown area of the country are cultivated by small and very small tenants, many of whom own no draft animals and have no hope of improving their methods of cultivation, of using fertilizers, or of employing up-to-date implements. Very often the Indian peasant is obliged to pay so large a share of his income to the usurer and the landowner that he must borrow again from the usurer in order to be able to keep body and soul together until the next harvest.

It is not surprising under these circumstances that India's agriculture failed to stand the test of war. It has not only proved incapable of supplying the Allied armies in the East with provisions, but has also been unable to provide food for the inhabitants of the country. Owing to the extreme backwardness of agriculture, the reduction of imports of rice and other food grains led to famine in many of the most important provinces of the country, particularly in Bengal. The famine in India is causing understandable alarm in Great Britain, but it is evident that the measures proposed to combat it are, as a rule, only palliatives; they do not touch the fundamental cause—the primitiveness of the entire economic system of the Indian countryside.

In the field of culture, too, India does not occupy the place in the civilized world that it could claim, considering her vast population and her cultural traditions. We have in mind not only the extremely low standard of literacy in the country, but also the fact that after having played such an important role in developing world culture in the past, India today is unable to make anything like a fitting contribution to civilization. It cannot be regarded as an accident that this vast sub-continent is less represented in the field of modern literature than the small European countries, such as Norway and Denmark. A similar state of affairs is observed in all other spheres of culture, science and art. India has produced very few poets, authors and scholars of world repute.

Fundamental Cause

What is retarding the economic and cultural development of India in the present period?

Every sincere democrat must, of course, rebuff all attempts to attribute the economic and cultural weakness of modern India to the specific national composition of the Indian people, to any feature of their national spirit, their mentality and so forth.

All impartial observers quite rightly regard the extreme political backwardness of this country, which has remained in the position of a British colony up to the middle of the twentieth century, as the fundamental and main cause of her strikingly tardy economic and cultural development Everybody knows that the Indian people are living under political conditions that no nation in Europe lived under before the war. Naturally, the primitive forms of political life have been hampering the development of the Indian people for a long time past. As a result of these abnormal conditions the struggle between the stagnant forms of social life, which are fostered from outside, and the nascent progressive forces and trends is proceeding in a manner very much different from that in other countries. Moreover, political backwardness influences even the progressive movements and trends which are striving to remove the causes of India's tardy development and to lead the country on to the highroad of free development.

As a consequence of the peculiar political situation in India we have the very peculiar system of parties and political organizations that exists in the country. The largest and most influential party is, undoubtedly, the Indian National Congress. Before the war it had about 6,000,000 members. The Indian National Congress is not a political party in the ordinary sense of the term, because to it are affiliated nearly all the political groups and organizations which aim at achieving the complete independence of India. These groups and organizations formerly bore a very heterogeneous social complexion. To the Congress affiliated organizations which represented the working class and the peasantry, and also groups which represented the interests of the manu-

(Continued on Page 15)

Many Tongues.....One Voice.....Their Master's Voice!

("London Calling"—The overseas journal of the B.B.C.—recently published a series of articles on B.B.C. programmes in foreign languages under the caption "Many Tongues—One Voice". It is well-known that a number of Indian ladies and gentlemen are employed by the B.B.C. to broadcast from London in the various provincial languages. The B.B.C. also maintains a liaison office in New Delhi in order to make its propaganda more effective. Here are a few well-known figures whose voices are frequently heard from London).

Venu Chitale of Poona who arranges the Marathi programmes.

Dr. Narayan Menon, musician and author, who frequently broadcasts to India.

Princess Indira of Kapurthala who covers the Parliament.

RACECOURSE DEVICE NOW A SECRET WEAPON

War Uses Of High-Speed Film Camera

BY CEDRIC DAY

American ingenuity and British improvisation have led to an interesting example of reverse Lend-Lease which has profited the war production of both countries.

The story starts in pre-war years, when United States racecourse authorities had a high-speed camera constructed so that slow-motion pictures of the finish to a race might be taken. By this means the judges were able to determine indisputably which horse won in what seemed to the human eye a dead heat.

As the camera was built specifically for this job nobody thought much more about it. In routine distribution, the American camera company sent a model to their English factory where the laboratory staff admired it, took a few shots and then laid it aside. And there it stayed until war broke out in 1939.

Slow Motion

To clear up any doubt, let me explain here that slow-motion films are taken by high-speed cameras. The slow motion you see on the cinema screen is slow because the camera has taken more than the normal number of pictures a second. These are thrown on the screen at normal speed which, in effect, slows up the motion so that you can see every movement in detail.

It was accidental that from this race-course judges' camera a type of high-speed camera has been developed and has become one of Britain's secret weapons behind the production of secret weapons. There was a lull in laboratory work at the English factory when war started, and some of the research staff, rediscovering the camera tried to think up ways of using it. They were so successful that models developed from this apparatus have played a role of first-rate importance in the war effort. Problems concerning secret weapons, such as rocket projectiles, have been solved as a result of the pictures taken.

High-speed photography is not new, nor is there anything new in using high-speed camera studies to help to solve efficiency problems in industry. These facts are well known in both the United States and Britain, but this highly specialised little camera can take pictures at such speed that it can slow up movement to an extent not achieved in practical work before. That, and the fact that it is portable—it weighs about 40 lbs and costs about £350—are two advantages which lift it out of the rut of high-speed cameras.

The ordinary movie camera takes 24 pictures a second. The ordinary high-speed movie camera takes up to 300 pictures a second. This little camera takes 3,000 pictures a second, and has taken 4,000. The film used is 16 mm. and runs continuously, not intermittently as in other types of high-speed cameras.

Five Seconds' Flash

The high-speed is reached gradually. For instance, it takes one second to reach 2,400 frames a second. That uses 30 feet of film, but in the next second the remaining 70 feet of the 100 feet spool of film runs through the machine. The exposure time for each picture at 3,000 feet a second is about one fifteen-thousandth of a second.

A photographer's flash bulb takes a fortieth to a fiftieth of a second to burn—almost instantaneous to the eye. The camera, operating at 3,000 pictures a second, can slow up the action so that the flash lasts about five seconds on the screen.

It does not need stressing that such slow-motion is of utmost value for study purposes. For instance, pictures taken of one of Britain's most fearsome secret weapons, the rocket projectiles, show the rockets sliding gracefully, almost languidly, from the launching racks. The action of the fastest-firing gun is similarly slowed down.

By such means Britain's designers and engineers have been able to make detailed study of high-speed working parts, and so correct faults and improve efficiency.

Research Shared

A picture study of one new gun showed that reloading did not commence until the spent cartridge had been ejected. The design was modified to increase considerably the rate of fire.

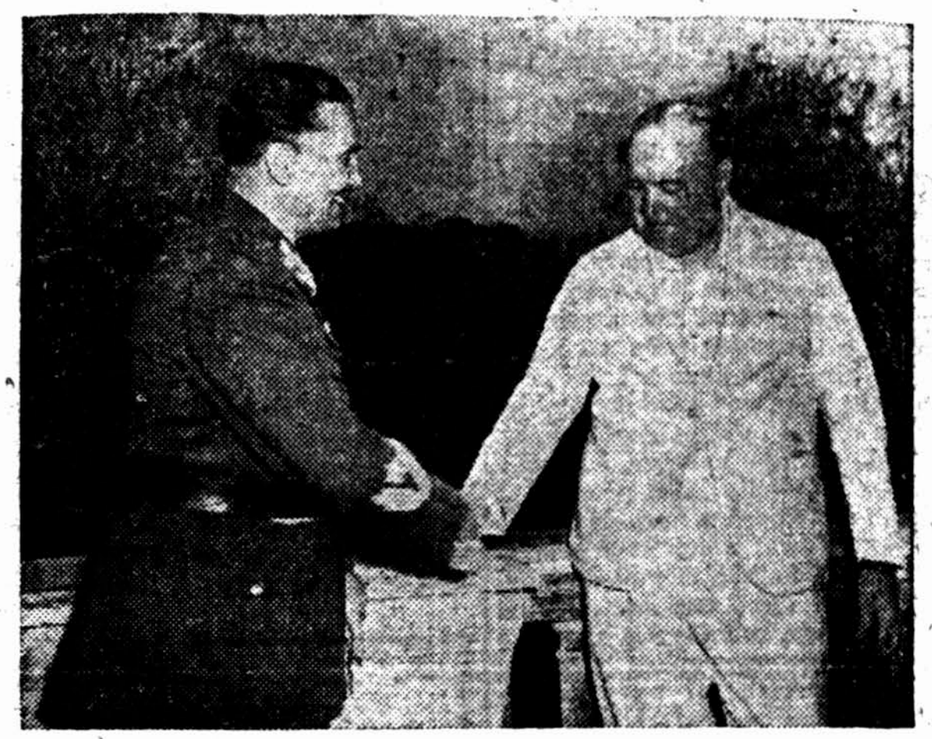
Similarly, studies have been made of complicated, high-speed machines, and the improvements and adjustments that have followed have speeded up output and improved the quality of products.

Britain's Royal Navy has used the camera to study the effects of near misses on hulls of ships. Navy engineers found out, through pictures, why bulkhead lights were smashed when ships fired their main armament. A film study of fuel injection spray for Diesel engines enabled engineers to design a jet to get an even spread. It also revealed a fact nobody suspected: the jet came in pulses.

Britain's Navy, Army and Air Force have all used the camera and, of course, the knowledge and experience they have gained has been passed on to the United States forces and U. S. industrialists to help them solve their war production problems.

It is, perhaps, an unusual form of Lend-Lease but it is helping to win the war for the Allies—a far grimmer and more gruelling race than the contests which the camera first figured in on the happy peacetime race courses ten years ago.

CHURCHILL AND TITO



Mr. Churchill greeting Marshal Tito when he met him during his last Italian visit.

SPEECH FOR THE TONGUE-LESS

More than 44,000 patients have been treated in the New York National Hospital for Speech Disorders—the only institution of its kind in the United States. Going far beyond such common defects as stammering and nervous maladjustments arising from hesitancy of speech, Dr. James Sonnett Greene, founder of the hospital, has performed such miracles as teaching people to speak who have lost tongues, and even the larynx—the voice box of the throat.

One of Dr. Greene's cases was a 77-year old man whose tongue was removed as a result of a malignant growth. The man was operated on at the hospital and then taught how to form words without the use of his tongue. He now converses freely and made a recording of Lincoln's Gettysburg address for electrical transcription to encourage others in his plight. Two patients, a middle aged man and a woman, have developed substitute voices by using their esophageal muscles for speaking in place of the larynx which had been removed.

Artificial Larynx

The manner in which Dr. Greene enables a client to develop an esophageal voice requires great patience and determination. A small hole is made in the neck to enable the patient to breathe directly into his windpipe. By swallowing quantities of air through the windpipe into the esophagus, a moving column of air is created which flows back into the mouth. Partially loose tissue at the back of the mouth serves as a vibrating mechanism and with careful practice a voice can be cultivated.

The doctor is working at present on an artificial larynx in the form of a hollow metal cylinder containing a reed attached on one end to a small rubber tube which the patient can hold in his mouth. The only disadvantage in the use of this apparatus is that it is unhygienic and conspicuous Attempts are being made to develop an instrument in capsule form containing electrical batteries which can be pressed against the neck causing the diaphragm to vibrate and thus induce speech. All these mechanical devices, however, are awaiting the end of the war for further development.

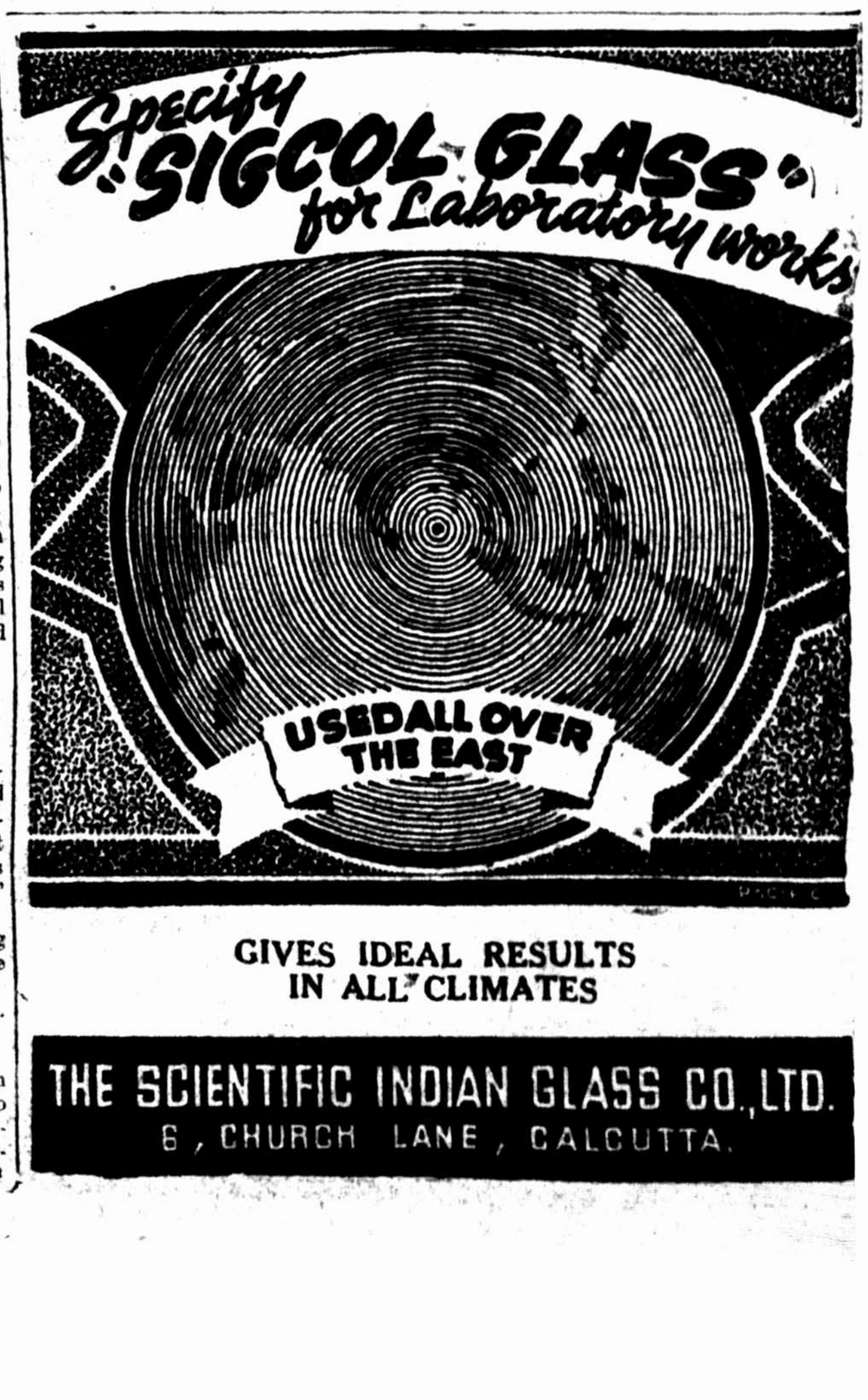
Donovan had bought a watch guaranteed for twelve months. At the end of nine months, however, he reappeared at the shop and complained that the watch had stopped six months earlier when it had fallen into the pigs' trough.

"But why on earth didn't you bring it back at once?" inquired the jeweller.

"How could I?" replied Donovan. "We only killed the pig yesterday."

*

A parishioner, asked by the parson after the health of her husband who was suffering from rheumatism, replied: "Mighty bad, sir; I've been rubbing him down all night with imprecations."



Indian Farmers In The United States

Joginder Singh, who went to America as a small boy and has settled down there.

By HILDA WIERUM BOULTER

The scene is in the United States, in any one of a number of farming communities in the Pacific Coast state of California.

It is Sunday, and a group of Sikhs have gathered at the home of one of the members of the community. Chickens are killed and curried, huge piles of rotis are prepared, everyone feasts to his heart's content. After the feast, the men sit and talk of India, exchanging the racy and full-bodied humorous stories in which Punjabi abounds. There is laughter, and singing of the rambling, haunting songs that to the ears of Western passersby are reminiscent of Gregorian chants.

Of the 3,000 persons of East Indian descent now resident in the United States, between 1,000 and 2,000 live in California. Here they are engaged in agriculture, and constitute an appreciable part of the productive life of a state which has one of the most interesting and colourful farming histories in the country.

California fruits and vegetables are choice—to such a degree that it is hoped after the war to introduce an air-cargo system whereby naturally ripened California products may be delivered overnight to central and eastern portions of the United States. Such superior quality has been achieved not because nature was unreservedly generous, but because the tillers of the soil in the region used their ingenuity and diligence in irrigating sparsely-watered lands. The Hindustani farmers and farm workers, acquainted with irrigation methods because of their Punjab origin, were among those who helped make California a fertile state.

First Emigrants

California became the destination of so many Hindustani immigrants to the United States as the result of geography and circumstance. Early in the 20th century the persistently difficult economic conditions in the Punjab made many young people of the region look elsewhere for a livelihood. Some enlisted in the Army and police force, and found themselves sent to posts in various Asiatic ports. Here they heard about Canada, frequently from men who had been there. Even earlier, after Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in London in 1897, some Sikhs crossed Canada on their way home, and decided to return to the new world when they could.

The west coast of Canada—British Columbia—was host to the first Hindustani immigrants to the North American continent. There is still a large and prosperous Hindustani community in British Columbia, engaged largely in lumber milling and trading, which provide the chief occupation of the province. From British Columbia, some of the immigrants began to move southward, lured by report of California's ideal climate and topographical resemblance to their native Punjab. They entered the United States at the Canadian border, and to their original settlements on the U.S. west coast were soon added others who came directly to this new destination from across the Pacific. Between 1901 and 1910, a total of 4,713 immigrants were admitted to the United States from India; the largest number 1,782 came during the peak year of 1910.

Three Settlement Centers

In California there are three centers of settlement—the Sacramento Valley to the north; the San Joaquin Valley in the center, and the Imperial Valley near the southern tip of the state not far from the Mexican border.

Each region has its crop specialties. In the Sacramento Valley vegetables and fruits are grown—beans, asparagus, peaches and grapes. To this region, soon after their arrival, the Sikhs introduced the culture of rice and for a time grew large quantities of it. In the 1920's about 45,000 acres were cultivated in rice, 35,000 in vegetables, and 5,000 in fruits, by Hindustani settlers in the Sacramento Valley. In the vicinity of Willows, one of the settlement centers, a large and successful rice cooperative was instituted. However, the rice production of California has decreased, and the land is being converted to other products.

The San Joaquin Valley, of which Fresno is the center, is known for oranges, grapes, peaches, corn and sugar beets, and some cotton is grown. In this section the knowledge of irrigation which came by inheritance to the Hindustani settlers was of great use.

Truck farming is the chief interest in the southern Imperial Valley, where lettuce and peas are the leading crops. From among the products grown here is drawn America's choice supply, and "California lettuce" is preferred in all sections of the country. The part which small-scale truck farming has played in bringing the food standards of the United States to a commendable level is not to be underestimated. To supplement the expansive farming projects in the middle-western states—where cereals and other basic foods are grown—the more modest truck-farming undertakings have managed to supply the country with the less bulky but equally necessary elements of nutrition.

Between 20 and 30 per cent of the Hindustani settlers manage farms of their own, usually maintained on a lease basis. The land is leased from American owners. At Casa Grande, California, Divan Singh operates a 1,600 acre farm, employing between 200 and 300 workers and utilizing farm machinery valued at $100,000. In addition to the farm managers, there are a number of Hindustani farm labourers, more or less migratory in their mode of life, and moving from center to center as crops ripen. Not all the Hindustani workers are employed by Hindustani farm managers, nor do Hindustani farm managers necessarily employ only Hindustani workers. An especially pleasant relationship exists with the Mexican workers in the region. Mexican labour is frequently employed by the Punjabi farmers, and many of the Punjabis have learned to speak Spanish at least as well as English, sometimes better.

Marriage to Mexican women has also occurred with some frequency, although only between one and two per cent of the Hindustanis in California are married. There have been a few instances of marriage with American women, although not as many here as among the Hindustanis active in science and other professions. Among the older settlers there are some Hindustani households, in which the American-born children are American citizens. It is among the older settlers, too, that one finds the complete retention of the distinguishing Sikh beards and turbans, which the younger settlers have generally discarded.

In food, however, there is a more general observance of prohibitions by the various groups represented.

No Religious Dissension

Vegetables, grain and fowl constitute the basis of the diet in the neighbourhood, and the settlers are known for buying always the best quality food obtainable. The lines of religious demarcation among the Hindustani settlers in California have not brought with them any religious dissensions. Amity and co-operation prevail in the communities.

Saturday nights and Sundays—in the American fashion—are the occasions for relaxation and enjoyment. On Saturday nights a trip is made to town, to buy the week's provisions. This trip offers the opportunity for some social activity—on street corners and in cafes, Punjabi may be heard, interspersed with the laughter that comes after a week's work well done. On Sundays occur the gatherings in one home or another, with the feasts and the singing.

There is a Sikh temple in Stockton in the Sacramento region. Here there is also a Dhalsa Diwan Society, which has a larger branch in British Columbia. The Punjabi Moslems are members of the Moslem Association of America. Several attempts have been made to start publications and community bulletins. The Khaesa Diwan Society issues a bulletin in Gurumuki on special occasions.

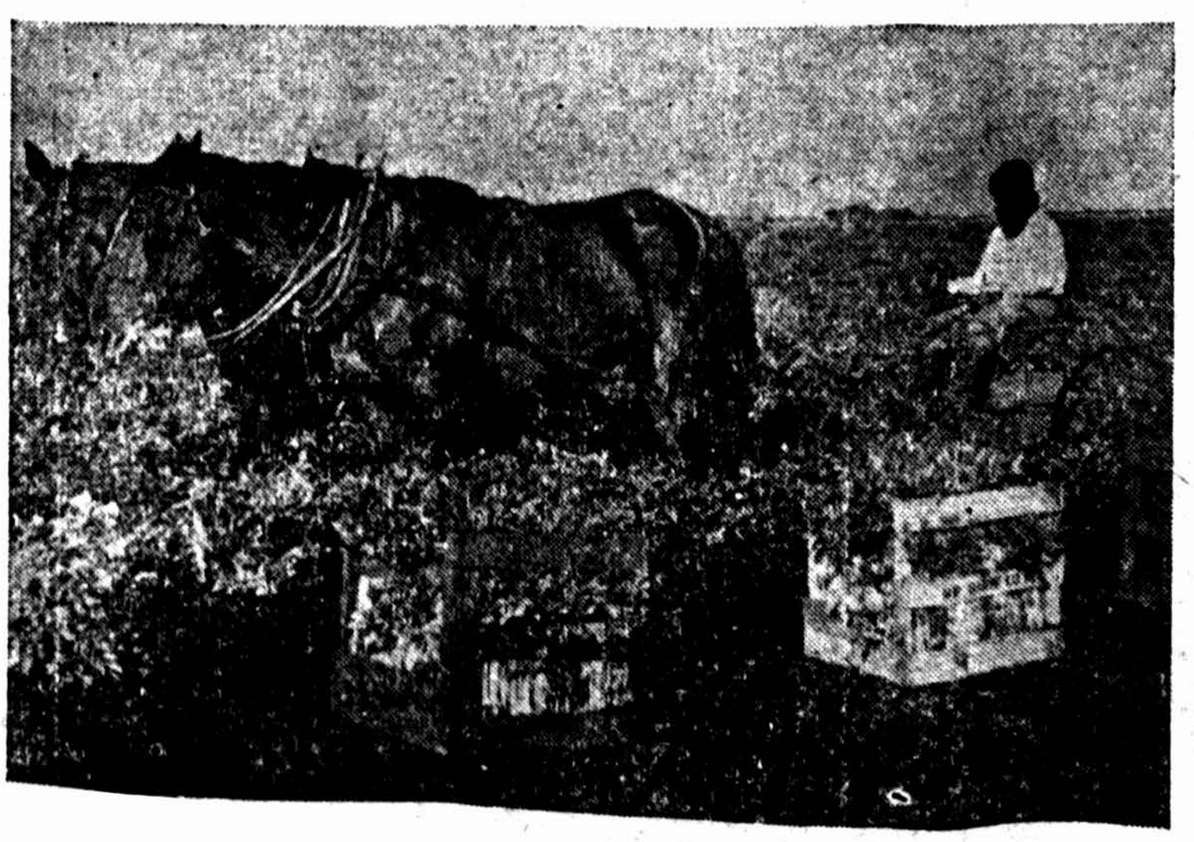
In the opinion of all who have had dealings with them, the Hindustani farmers and farm-workers in California are hard-working, God-fearing folk, who have enriched the state by their toil. Their robust constitutions have fitted them for the exigencies of agricultural life. They have shown themselves to be skilful as well as adaptable to the special needs of the region.

The fidelity of the Hindustani settlers to the United States has been shown repeatedly in times of crisis. During the 1914-18 war, Hindustanis in the Imperial Valley invested $70,000 in war bonds. A similar record is being made today. In the small community of Colusa, California, during a recent drive on behalf of the Red Cross, the Hindustani residents of the vicinity were the largest individual contributors.—

Hilda Wierum Boulter has been research assistant for the India League of America, assistant editor of their monthly bulletin, "India To-day", and a contributor of articles on India to other U.S. publications. Her book for children, "India", has just appeared. In India her work has been published in the "Modern Review" (Calcutta) and the "Hindustan Times" (Delhi).

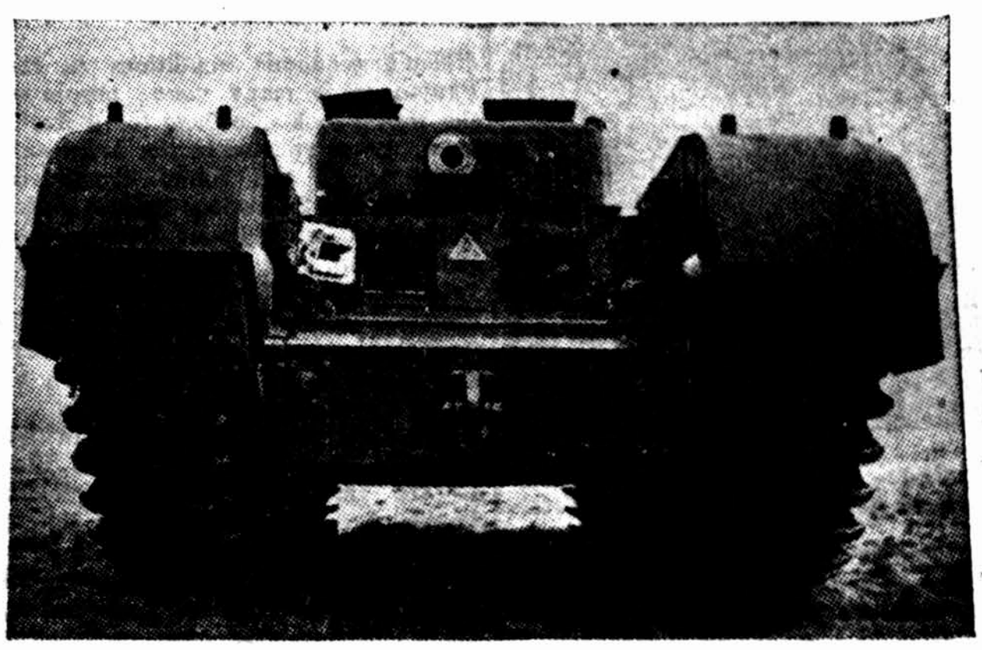
Indians Cultivate Celery In California

One of the Punjabis who farms in the San Joaquin Valley in the U.S. west coast state of California, shown operating a celery cutter. In the photo on the right his Comrade is seen filling a crate with celery. From the fields the celery goes to a company warehouse, where it is washed, sorted and recrated. From California it is shipped to all parts of the United States.



IS THERE A LEGAL WAY TO RESTORE AXIS LOOT?

British 'D' Day Tank Howitzer



A Churchill M4 close support tank equipped with a 95mm. Howitzer. The 95mm. fires a shell of high capacity filled with either H.E. or smoke and is capable of "lobbing" it over buildings and hills which obscure the target from the direct view of the tank gunner. This indirect fire was most valuable during the Normandy landings as it enabled tanks in the landing craft to shell invisible targets behind the beaches. Thus the 95mm. H.E. can be used to knock out enemy mortars and gun positions, and to destroy buildings which may be harbouring snipers and machine and anti-tank guns. The smoke screen it can lay down is used to blind the enemy and to cover movement of British troops; it is, in fact, a close support weapon of a most useful type.

By Dr. BRUNO WEINBERG

Dr. Weinbeg suggests a solution to the problem of restoring property that was stolen by the Nazis, to Europe's dispossessed persons. Dr. Weinberg is an authority on international law; he has collaborated in international law cases presented before the Permanent Court of International Justice, and is author of The Clausula Rebus Sic Stantibus in International Law, Crisis of International Law, and Law of Internationality.

Here's the puzzle: the Germans seized some property from a man named A and gave it to B, a Quisling, as a bribe. B then sold it to C, who sold it to D. As for D, an ordinary respectable citizen, the goods was honestly acquired: he paid hard-earned money for it. He didn't know the property had been stolen by Germans in the first place, and now considers himself the legitimate owner. So how can the problem be unscrambled?

In the postwar restitution of looted goods, should this property be given back to A? If so, will not D suffer an injustice, since he personally had no part in the Nazis' shady dealings and had paid hard-earned cash for the property?

That's only one example of the terribly-involved problem Allied authorities are facing in liberated countries. Certainly, we want to undo the evil the Nazis have done. But the Nazis have left such a complicated trail behind them that it is difficult to follow their moves, and sometimes all but impossible to find out who the real property owner is.

Ways and means by which the Germans proceeded with their looting has been different in each conquered country—Poland, France, Holland, Belgium. Their system of "confiscating" stationary property varied from the way they stole mobile property. Their methods of taking over factories differed from the way they "bought" the majority of shares in stock companies. Very often, the property was not taken over directly by the Germans themselves, but was given as a bribe to collaborators—that is, to nationals of the same country from which it was taken.

In some cases, the property was seized outright; in other instances it was "sold" in the normal way. Sometimes the seller was forced to sell under pressure—or looting took the form of exorbitant taxes and fines with forfeiture as the penalty for default in payment. Such unparalleled ingenuity in looting was an integral part of the whole plan of enslavement.

I'm going to show you a simple way in which I believe the whole problem can be solved. But first of all, let's see in greater detail what we're up against.

Much of the property has changed hands during the Nazi occupation. Those to whom it originally belonged may now be dead, or the documents lost. The Nazis have falsified registers and public documents relating to property rights. Often, the national legislation of different countries determines the solution of property problems in different and contradictory ways. All sorts of involved technical and legal factors enter into it, too.

Looking at such a situation, one could easily be overtaken by despair But something must be done, for it is obvious that we can't allow stolen property to remain in the hands of robbers or their associates. All governments of liberated countries have declared that the rightful owners will be reinstated in their property rights. But so far, efforts to untangle the mess have not succeeded.

What we must do is to approach the problem in an entirely new way. We must do away with legal and technical stumbling blocks regarding nationality, domicile, and so on. It is really no concern if the person involved in the ownership dispute is of Polish or American nationality, if he is a Belgian or even a German, or if his domicile was Vienna or Prague. The only sound question is whether or not he was anti-Fascist—because an Austrian, Italian or German refugee is as much a victim as a person of any other nationality. On the other hand, a Dutch Quisling, although technically a friendly alien, is as much an enemy as any Nazi!

A start toward recognizing this principle has already been made in the armistice terms for Romania, Finland and Bulgaria. These terms say: "All persons, independent of their civil status or nationality, who are kept under arrest owing to their sympathy with the cause of the United Nations, or owing to their racial origin, will be liberated at once; and all discriminatory legislation and restrictions are hereby abolished."

To sum up this point: In restoring property, no regard should be taken of the nationality, race, religion, origin, or residence of a victim. The only principle is that the victim was an enemy of the Nazis. In this case, every refugee—even if he was a national of Germany—would have the same rights as the citizen of an Allied nation. On the contrary, if a person of Allied nationality had, for example, bought German marks at cheap prices—speculating on the victory of Germany, he would have no right of reparation. For by so acting he had helped Germany to get valuable foreign exchange.

Let's get down to cases. Mr. A had a house in Brussels which was confiscated by Germans or Quislings, but had not yet been sold to anyone else. As long as he can prove it was really his house, there is no reason why Mr. A shouldn't get it back.

Suppose, on the other hand, the Germans sold his house to Mr. B. Mr. B has been warned many times that he should not buy property confiscated by the Axis. In doing so, he has speculated on Axis victory. There is no reason why Mr. B should be allowed to keep this property, and he has no right to claim damage.

Now go back to the example at the beginning of this article. Mr. B instead of keeping the house, sold it to Mr. C, who sold it to Mr. D, who bought it in good faith. To solve this, let's apply our common law. Under such law, even "good faith" doesn't protect the possessor if the goods he acquired were illegally taken away from its lawful owner. This simple rule, unfortunately, is not recognized by most European countries, who hold that one who buys stolen property in good faith has some rights, under certain conditions.

But to cut through all these technicalities, and simplify the whole business, I believe that, without exception, the Allies should agree that "good faith" in acquiring property will be no protection. After all, the man from whom the property was taken in the first place remains the only real owner; there's no getting around that. In taking this stand, we adopt a generally accepted rule in maritime law: Goods bought in good faith from pirates never become the legal property of the buyer. What the Germans committed was piracy on land, and there is no sound argument why the same principle should not be applied.

However, provision should be made so that the last possessor of the property—in this case, Mr. D.—should have the right to get his money back from the man who sold it to him—in this case, Mr. C. But if Mr. C is impoverished, there's nothing that can be done. In any case, the rightful possessor, Mr. A, who has been robbed of his property, should have no obligation of any kind to Mr. D or any of the others.

Another problem, still more complicated, is the restitution of property which was supposedly "lawfully" acquired—that is, in which all forms of law had been observed. For example, it was sold by the rightful owner in the customary legal way. The catch here is that a great number of sales were made under blackmail. Jews and others had to sell their property or be sent to concentration camps. It is quite clear that such sales were made "under duress," as lawyers call it, and are invalid. Phony contracts should be annulled. If a man was forced to sell his property under duress, he should be able to get it back if he refunds the price he got for it.

As for mobile property—automobiles, cattle, horses, household goods, valuables of one sort or another—the same rules should be adopted. Here, however, the problem of finding such goods will be difficult indeed. To help find lost goods, there should be a national registration in every liberated country, where everyone who has bought any mobile property during the Nazi occupation will have to register the purchase.

If, in spite of this registration, there is a person who can't find his property, all he can do is to enter a claim to the international commission for damage.

A number of regulations will have to be adopted concerning "evidence." It is quite clear that if a rightful owner had to produce all the customary legal evidence to support his claim, few could do it. This is because of the tragic circumstances under which many people had to leave or were carried away. In these instances, the tribunals should have a wide measure of liberty in deciding such questions. All documents prepared during the Nazi occupation should, as a general rule, be considered invalid.

Another question is: who should claim property if the rightful owner of such property and his descendants and heirs are dead? It would be obviously unjust if the present "owner"—the Mr. D of our example—should become the legal owner. In such a case, the property should be turned over to an international organization, some kind of international trustee. This organization could then use the property and funds so acquired in the rehabilitation of Nazi victims. And it could make payment for damages to those whose property cannot be traced.

Who should decide these cases? It has been suggested that they be handled by international tribunals. I think it would be more practical if each country set up its own national tribunal—although each should work upon a common set of rules and regulations. However, to make certain that persons of other nationalities are not discriminated against, it should be possible to appeal decisions to some international body. As for Axis nations, it is clear that their tribunals can't be trusted; in dealing with such matters in conquered Axis countries, Allied tribunals should be created.

A word or two about reparations. We must remember that every Axis criminal, apart from his responsibility for the crimes his country has committed, is also financially liable personally. His individual property can be used to help pay damages to those he has violated. To get the most out of this for the relief of victims, liquidation of Axis property should be handled on a commercial basis. The whole things should be handled by a competent international sales organization. Although the sums received won't cover the damage the enemy has done, they will nevertheless help somewhat.

Reason for handling such property on an international basis is this: there are countries where the Axis has great quantities of property and few claims by victims. There are other countries where the Axis has little property and many claims. It would be notoriously unjust, therefore, if each country had the right to liquidate Axis property as it sees fit. In many cases, citizens of one liberated country which has much Axis property would fare quite well. Those of another country which has many claims to satisfy and little Axis assets would get very little.

All the Axis assets should be lumped together, then distributed to the different nations and organizations on a pro cents basis. Out of these funds, victims of Nazi oppression should be helped in their rehabilitation. It is impossible to satisfy all justified claims, but an arrangement can be worked out to give some help to all those who have suffered.—USOWI.

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ROAD TO BERLIN OPEN

'Patton Could Spend Easter Sunday In Reich Capital If He Wanted To"

MONTY'S NEW OFFENSIVE: GIANT PINCERS AROUND RUHR CLOSING?

WESTERN FRONT, March 31. (U. P. A.): The road to Berlin is open, and no organised German resistance is left in the path of the Allied armies.

A GERMAN OFFICER CAPTURED BY THE AMERICAN THIRD ARMY VOLUNTEERED THIS INFORMATION, AND ADDED THAT GENERAL PATTON "COULD SPEND EASTER SUNDAY IN BERLIN IF HE WANTED TO," REPORTS BOYD LEWIS, UNITED PRESS OF AMERICA WAR CORRESPONDENT WITH THE THIRD ARMY.

The officer also volunteered the opinion that the Germans are deliberately letting the British and Americans through while fighting desperately to hold the Russians in the East.

HEIDELBERG FALLS

The Seventh Army captured Heidelberg with relative ease but 30 miles to the north they have encountered a ferocious battle along the Main River south of Aschaffenburg.

German troops, Volksturm units and even young girls have swarmed back into Aschaffenburg where they are apparently preparing to fight to the bitter end with house-to-house fighting.

Similar German units are also fighting hard from the Siegfried Line east of the Main River.

FALL OF KASSEL IMMINENT?

PARIS, March 31 (U.P.A.): The fall of Kassel, Nazi stronghold on the Wesr River in the rich German Ruhr industrial basin appears imminent as British and American forces, with almost three thousand tanks in support, crashed through the riddled Nazi defences within 170 miles of Berlin.

The American First Army is racing north from Paderborn over the last 40 miles separating them from Field Marshal Montgomery's forces on the Westphalian Plain

MONTY'S NEW OFFENSIVE

Montgomery's forces are also reported to be launching a new offensive 50 miles east of the Rhine where they are moving so fast that a juncture with the American First Army is considered to be only a matter of hours.

The remnants of five German divisions are now reeling back in wild flight.

Ninety miles to the south-east, the United States Third Army is rushing over the approaches to Kassel, raking the retreating Germans from the air and ground.

GIANT PINCERS AROUND RUHR CLOSING

LONDON, March 31 (A.P.I.): Paris radio said today that according to latest frontline reports the Dortmund-Hanover road has been cut and the giant pincers around the Ruhr will close at any moment.

NINTH ARMY, March 31 (A.P.I.): Ninth Army spearheads made good progress rolling through Germany today, but their advance was still hidden under a security news silence.

Assault columns were meeting practically no resistance, except at an occasional blown bridge position.

GEN. SIMPSON SPEARHEADING ADVANCE

General Simpson disclosed the second armoured division, formerly part of the Third Army, now is spearheading his advance. The division formerly fought in Africa, Sicily and Italy.

3,000 TANKS RUSHED

S.H.A.E.F., Paris March 31 (Reuter): Twelve Allied armoured divisions or elements of them—more than 3,000 tanks—are tonight tearing great gaps through German territory with swift motorised infantry columns quickly filling in behind them.

FIRST BRITISH ARMY, March 31 (U.P.A.): British armoured columns gained as much as 16 miles today and are still fanning out through the Westphalian Plain although security still hides their locations.

S.H.A.E.F., March 31 (U P A): The United States Third Army today reached Hersfeld which is 47 miles east north-west of Giessen and 21 miles north of Fuld.

The First Army drove to ten miles south-west of Kassel.

The British bridgehead is now 25 miles along Rhine.

The Seventh Army is within 15 miles of Wurzburg.

PARIS, March 31 (U.P.A.): The French General Staff announced that French troops crossed the Rhine this morning on a fifteen kilometer front in the face of lively resistance. The operation was completely successful and is developing favourably.

LONDON, March 31 (U.P.A.): A DNB dispatch said that British and Canadian troops crossed the Dortmond Ems cannel and established several small bridgeheads on the east bank of the canal. Furious fighting developed on both side of Luedinghausen, which is 16 miles south-west of munster, two miles across the canal.

Allied Heavy Bombers Pound Targets In Vienna

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, MEDITERRANEAN, March 30 (Reuter): Flying in bad weather unescorted heavy bombers from Italy to-day attacked railway yards at Vienna and Graz in support of the Russian drive on Austria. The San Ambrogio railway bridge on the Brenner Pass and ammunition and fuel dumps at Spezia and Rovereto were also raided.

WATCH CAIRO MYSTERY

CAIRO, March 31. (A.P.A.): The newspaper 'El-Yom" says that radios throughout the world will have "an announcement of greatest importance" at 9 a.m. (12-30 p.m. I.S.T.) to-morrow. The paper gave no other details.

LATEST NEWS

NEW DELHI, March 30 (A.P.I.): The replay of the match between Manavadar State XI and Kalyan Mills, Indore, in the Delhi cloth mills All-India Hockey Tournament played this evening resulted in a goalless draw.

PESHAWAR, March (U.P.I.): Dr. Khan Sahib, Premier, Qazi Ataulla Khan, Mr. R. B. Mehrchand Khanna, and Mr. Amir Mohammad Khan were elected Leader, Deputy Leader, Secretary, and Whip of the Congress Parliamentary Party, respectively, at a meeting of the Party held immediately after the last sitting of the Assembly was over.

From Reuter's Special Correspondent, New York, March 31 (Reuter): An all-out amphibious assault on the vital "Springboard" of Okinawa island, only 360 miles from the Japanese mainland, appeared imminent today.

LEICESTER, March 31: Representative Rugby result: Great Britain 36 points, Dominions 13.

At halftime, Great Britain was 19 points and Dominions 8.

THE END AT LAST?

LONDON, March 31 (U.P.I.): According to the Stockholm "Tindninger" the War Council was held at Hitler's Headquarters yesterday and the German High Command declared the impossibility of continuation of the war.

In the West the High Command said that the German troops were not under the control of officers; Volssturm unit was capitulating without attempting to fight; stocks of petrol were exhausted and there was no food for troops.

The same signs of disintegration were expected when the Russian offensive opened. The German Army Commanders said that they were prepared to negotiate for armistice if the Nazi Government withdraw.

LONDON, March 31 (U.P.I.): Latest despatches from Stockholm report that Hitler is preparing an alternative fortress "Hideout." It is called "Bohemian Bastion" and is situated in the heart of the Bohemian forest within the easy reach of Skodaworks at Pilsen in Czechoslovakia.

Mahatma Gandhi alighting from train at Matunga Level-Crossing on Saturday.

"NEVER NEARER GOAL THAN NOW INSPITE OF OUR MANY BLUNDERS"

National Week To Be Observed In Triple Expectation Of Communal Unity, Khadi And Swaraj, Says Mahatma

Mahatma Gandhi arrived in Bombay this morning. Gandhiji, Dr. Syed Mahmud and some members of Gandhiji's entourage got off the Nagpur Mail at the level crossing at Matunga. Mr. Nagindas T. Master, Mr. S. K. Patil, Mr. Mangaldas Pakvasa and other Congressmen were present at the level crossing to welcome him. Mr. Nagindas Master garlanded Gandhiji. From the level crossing the party motored to Birla House where Gandhiji was welcomed by Mr. G. D. Birla.

MAHATMA'S BUSY DAY

On the first day of his arrival in Bombay, Mahatma Gandhi had a busy day on Saturday. Despite his silence his programme for the day included the writing out of two statements, one on the reported news of the King's refusal to exercise clemency in favour of the Ashti and Chimur prisoners, awaiting their sentence of death and the other on the observance of the forthcoming National Week.

A stream of visitors, including Dr. Syed Mahmud, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, Dr. Kailasnath Katju, and two leaders from Karnatak, namely, Mr. D. P. Karmarkar and Mr. P. V. Patil saw Gandhiji in the course of the day.

Gandhiji attended public prayers, as usual, when collections for the Harijan Fund were made.

KASTURBA FUND EXECUTIVE

At 3 p. m. on Sunday (today), the Executive Committee of the Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Fund will meet at Birla House. Gandhiji will attend, but he is not expected to speak. The meeting of the Executive Committee will continue on Monday also. The meeting of the full Board of Trustees will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Among those who accompanied Gandhiji from Sevagram are Mr. Pyarelal and Mr. Narhari Parikh, his Secretaries, Dr. Sushila Nair, Mr. Kanu Gandhi and Mr. H. C. Dasappa, ex-President of the Mysore State Congress.

NEARER THE GOAL

BOMBAY, March 31 (U.P.I.): "We were never nearer the goal than now in spite of our many blunders", said Mahatma Gandhi in the course of a statement to the Press on the forthcoming national week celebrations in India.

Gandhiji said: "The National Week will be presently on us. We began to observe the Week in 1919. We had the unexpected and spontaneous manifestation of the villagers all over India. Seven days after, Jallianwala Bagh massacre also unthought of, took place. We have observed the Week ever since in triple expectation of achieving communal unity, full establishment of Khaddar and Swaraj. We seem to be at one time within an ace of the triple achievement. But today we seem to be very far. I advisedly use the verb "seem." The goal ever seems to recede from us but if we have honestly worked for it, it really comes nearer. Anyhow I feel so. We were never nearer the goal than now in spite of our many blunders. It is as well that we remember our blunders and fail to notice the successes lying underneath. Only our blunders must never dishearten us. We must learn to profit by them and correct them. Then every blunder will hearten us, for we shall mount a step higher by unlearning each blunder. Thus it becomes a cleansing process.

CENTRAL SUN OF KHADDAR

"Let it be noted that Khaddar has attained a wider connotation than before. It has become the central sun round which other village industries revolve like so many planets. Moreover it now represents the fifteenfold constructive programme. Khaddar itself has after much experience got its proper value and thus has received a dignity never before given to it. Every one is now able, with the introduction by Vinoba of 'tunai' to make his or her 'punies' and spuns with ease. The wheel too has undergone radical improvement and the new process of doubling yarn has made it as strong as one could wish for weaving. Would that every lover of freedom of India will remember these things during the week and bring freedom nearer than ever before without parliamentary programme and even civil disobedience unless the Government drive workers to it by talking of India's freedom without meaning it."

Pt. Pant Released

BAREILLY, March 31. (A.P.I.): Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant was released this evening at 6-15 at the jail gate of the Central Prison Izatnagar, Bareilly.

Jawahar & Narendra Deo To Be Confined In Bareilly Central Jail

EARLIER

LUCKNOW, March 31. (A. P. I.): Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Pandit G. B. Pant and Acharya Narendra Deo passed through Lucknow this morning "en route" to Bareilly.

The leaders arrived at the Lucknow Railway Station at 5-15 this morning from Allahabad. Their reserved carriage was detached and attached to the Parcel Express leaving Lucknow at 7-45 a. m.

Pandit Nehru looked cheerful and returned with a smile the "Namaskars" of the small crowd which had collected at the platform inspite of the restrictions imposed by the Railway Authorities. Pandit Pant, and Acharya Narendra Deo looked pulled down.

Pandit S. D. Upadhyaya, Pandit Nehru's Private Secretary, also travelled by the same train.

CHITRAPUR SARASWATS' MEETING

Under auspices of the Standing Committee of Mahasabha of Chitrapur Saraswats and of all their religious and social institutions in Bombay, and suburbs, members of the community will meet at Kanara Saraswat Association Hall, Talmakiwadi, Tardeo Road, at 6 p m today to pay homage to Shrimat Sukratendra Tirtha Swamiji and Shrimat Sudhindra Tirtha Swamiji of the Shri Kashi Math.

LONDON, March 31 (U.P.A.): Today's German communique announced that American troops broke into the town of Bottrop, just south-west of Gladbeck.

THE LAST ROUND OF HITLER'S WAR

A WEEK OF WAR By N. G. Jog

MARCH. 30.

"Finis" is being written to the war in Europe, even though the Nazis may grimly refuse to capitulate until the last square foot of Germany is occupied by Allied armies.

The final round is being fought now and the knock-out blow may be delivered at any moment. The Wehrmacht is a whipped army according to General Eisenhower himself—and "I Ke" is not accustomed to use flamboyant language. At any rate in the West, it is an army disorganised and routed. The Allies are cutting through the Reich like knife through cutter. The pilots flying ahead of the tank armada report that there are no enemy troop movements, no road blocks, no defence lines. It is incredible, but true.

A security silence has been clamped by Field-Marshal Montgomery on the advance actions "because of the rapidity of present operations." An exact appraisal of the situation is thus not possible. In fact the situation is changing almost hour by hour as the Allied motorised columns pierce deeper and deeper into German territory. Frankfurt is completely occupied. The Ruhr, the last arsenal of the Reich is virtually outflanked and cut off from the rest of the country. This is itself a crippling blow to Hitler's war machine.

Two American armies are now less than two hundred miles from Berlin. A still lesser distance than this separates the spearheads of the U. S. First and Third Armies from Leipzig. They are driving in the direction of Cassel and Erfurt, while another column is proceeding towards Nuremburg. This operation may be subsidiary to the main headlong drive to the German capital but it is extremely significant, in view of the reported Nazi plan to hold to the south even when the Northern German plain is overrun by the Allies.

Red Drive Into Austria

Linked with this advance are the Red Army's operations on the Austrian border. Marshal Tolbukhin's Third Ukrainian Army has started a systematic assault on the enemy defences in the Bratislava gap and it has already occupied a few border positions. In fact the German front in Austria is crumbling for more than a hundred miles and their opposition is extremely patchy. Marshal Tolbukhin and Malinovsky are rapidly exploiting their initial success and Vienna will soon echo to the sound of Red artillery.

Though feverish digging activity has been recently reported from the capital of Austria, it is hardly prepared for a prolonged defence on the Budapest model. There is only a token garrison there and the present breakdown of communications will make it impossible for the Nazis to rush reinforcements—if they have any left!

Apart from this, latest advices from Austria indicate that there is considerable opposition to the Nazi regime in that country. In fact something of a regular resistance movement is reported to be ready—only awaiting the signal to rise. Once the Red Army breaks into the Hungarian plain, the underground forces are expected to strike in Vienna, as they did in Paris even before the liberating Allied forces had reached it.

This fact in itself may have considerably damped the Nazi High Command's ardour to conduct a guerilla warfare there. There is thus every likelihood that aided by the resistance movement, the Red Army will swiftly overrun the whole of Austria and emerge into Southern Germany thus linking hands with the Allied armies. Less than two weeks should suffice for this development, according to expert military opinion—if the war does not end altogether before then!

GANGWAY!

Race To Berlin

An intriguing question of the moment is: Who will march into Berlin first—the Allied or the Red Army? General Eisenhower himself was asked this question during the interview he gave to war correspondents last Tuesday. He replied that mileage favoured the Russians who had 33 miles to cover against the Allies 350. The Generalissimo added, however, that the Russians had the bulk of German strength against them and would have a hard fight.

Within three days Allied armies have already eliminated 150 out of the distance that separated them from the German capital. At the rate of 50 miles a day, which they have covered so far, they should be marching through the Unter den Linden by Tuesday next! But then it would be absurd to expect such a miracle for the simple reason of the striking force outrunning its supplies.

Even if the German resistance remains as nebulous as it has been during the last few days, General Eisenhower will have to call a halt in order to safeguard his lines of communication and secure his supplies. An identical reason compelled General Patton to end his headlong drive through France last year.

According to the latest estimates though half of the Wehrmacht's 250 divisions in the West and in Hungary have ceased to exist as an organised army, the remaining 125 divisions are comparatively intact on the main East Front. This bears out Eisenhower's cautious remarks and explains why Marshal Zhukov has been held up on the Oder for many weeks ago and why even Marshal Koniev has had to show down his drive towards Dresden. The Allies, therefore, have a very good chance of entering Berlin first, provided Montgomery's supply can keep up with his progress.

Eastern Front

It is more than likely that the German collapse in the West may have serious repercussions on their positions on the Eastern front, too, howsoever stabilised it may appear at the moment. Apart from the fierce German resistance, another reason of the present stalement on the central front was the necessity of clearing up the flanks. The Germans have been doggedly clinging to their remaining hedgehogs in East Prussia and Pomerania. Their liquidation was essential for the assault on Berlin.

Though Koenigsburg has so far proved an extremely hard nut to crack, an order of the day by Marshal Stalin announces the final liquidation of German groupings south-west of the East Prussian capital. Between March 13 and 29 the Germans lost over 50,000 in prisoners and over 80,000 killed. A huge amount of booty has been captured, which itself is an indication of the importance attached by Hitler to this sector. Gdynia has been occupied and Danzig is now being finally cleared, leaving only Koenigsburg to be captured in the north-east.

Marshals Zhukov and Koniev, however, may be now expected to resume their main offensive, remaining the German bastions in their flanks and rear to be ground down gradually. After all it would be a pity if they lose the race for Berlin at this eleventh hour. "To Berlin" has been the motto of the Red Army ever since they crossed the Vistula in the middle of January and crashed through Poland in one unceasing movement. The Oder has no doubt held them up but Zhukov has established strong bridgeheads since long and now that his right flank is secured, he may be trusted to dash to the German capital with his customary elan.

Sands Running Out

It will be remembered that in a recent interview Ribbentrop, the German Foreign Minister, revealed that the Nazis would surrender rather to the Stalin—if only to spite the Allies! Actual developments have, however, belied this forecast, for the collapse has come first in the West while the Eastern Front is comparatively intact. Marshal Kesselring was brought post-haste from Italy in order to stabilise the western front. But Montgomery's sensational break-through over the Rhine has created a situation which no general can cope with and Kesselring has quickly followed Rundstedt into disgrace.

The Nazi leaders realise too well that they have lost the war. But still they talk of resistance, trusting upon fanatical S. S. Generals to continue the struggle somehow. Dr. Goebbels wails: "We have lost so much in this war that almost nothing is left but our honour, life and our freedom." And that also they will lose soon enough, even if they utilise some diabolical weapon like poison gas to stave off their doom by a few days or hours.

It may be expected that the Allied riposte to such an inhuman step will be prompt and effective and that it will only hasten the end of the war rather than otherwise. The sands are running out for the Nazi regime. The agony and suffering which they have inflicted upon the world for the last five and a half years are coming to an end, though one must be prepared for a final scene of sadistic annihilation. Hitler and his gang are welcome to this last triumph as they brood over their swiftly encompassing doom at Berchtesgaden!

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CITY AND SUBURBS

To-day

Hindu: Chaitra Vad 4, 2001.
Muslim: Rabi-ul-Akher 17, 1364.
Parsi: Meher 30, 1314.
Sunrise: 7-33 a.m. Sunset: 7-52 p.m.
Hightide: 2-39, 15-18.
Lowtide: 8-43, 20-58.

To-day's Engagements

BAND MUSIC: At Esplanade Band-stand Cooperage, to-dny (Sunday), from 6-45 to 8-45 p.m. (S. T.), by the Bombay City Police Band.

FEDERATED KARNATAK SANGHA: The Spring Kannada lectures will be opened by Rajasevasakta Masti Venkatesh Iyangar to-day (Sunday), at 4 p.m., at Anjuman Hall (near V. T.). Mr. R. A. Jahagirdar will preside.

BUDDHA SOCIETY: Public lecture by Mr. K. A. Padhye, in the "Anand Vihara", near Bombay Central Station, to-day (Sunday) at 10 a.m. (S. T.), on "Real Religion".

GAUDIYA MISSION: Upadesak Pandit Sreepad Nitaidas Brahmachari Bhakti Sastry Ragalankar on "How to overcome Maya", in English, to-day (Sunday), at 6-30 p.m. Culliandas Building, Gowalia Tank Road. "Sankirtanam" will precede and follow.

TRAVANCORE STATE PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE: Under the auspices of the Travancore State People's Committee a public meeting will be held at 5-30 p.m., to-day (Sunday), at the Podar College of Commerce Hall, Dadar. Sjt. Jainarain Vyas General Secretary of the All-India State People's Conference will address the meeting.

SRI VEDANTADESIKA SAMPRADAYA SABHA, MATUNGA: A series of lectures on Gita (in Tamil) is being given by Sri. Ubha-Ve. Mahopadesika Pothankottam Vidwan Shrinivasacharya Swami at Ruia College Hall, at 8-15 p.m. (N. S. T.), on week days and 5-30 p.m. (N. S. T.), on Saturdays and Sundays.

ISMAILIA STUDENTS EDUCATION SOCIETY.

Public debate on "Future Indian Economy on the Principle of De-centralisation" to-day (Sunday), at 10-30 a.m., at the office of the Society, Dongri. Mr. Mirza Akhtar Hasan, M.L.A. will preside. Mr. Adam Adil will lead the proposition seconded by Mr. Pralhad Mehta and Mr. B. N. Anklesaria and Mr. Hasan Ali Sani to lead the opposition.

DADAR-MATUNGA YOUTH ASSN./ ENTERTAINMENT.

The Dadar-Matunga Youth Association presents a Variety Entertainment free to the public to-day (Sunday), at Khalsa College Hall, Matunga, at 6 p.m. The programme includes besides songs, dances a feature "In the Indian Life" and a play "The Ivory Cross". Mr. B. N. Maheshwari will preside.

SOUTH KANARA CRICKET ASSOCIATION: Seventh Anniversary Celebration and Prize Distribution function of the Association will be held at the Bazar Gate High School Hall, Parsee Bazar Street, Fort, to-day (Sunday), at 2-30 p.m. (N. S. T.). Mr. V. S. Swadi will preside.

HOUSE OF ADJUSTOPATHY.

Public meeting, to-day, at 3 p.m., at New Islam Mill Currey Road. Speakers: Dr. Manji, Dr. Dhuri and Capt. More. Subjects: "Aims and Objects of Adjustopathy, the Universal Bio-Science of Health and Healing".

TO-DAY ON RADIO

BOMBAY—1
SUNDAY, April 1.

244 m 1,231 kc/s) 8-0 a m News (H) 8_15 News (E) 8-30 Songs (M) 8_50 News (M) 9-0 News (G) 9_10 Tomorrow 9-15 R M Dave 9_30 Lalita Parulkar 9-50 M S Kanetkar 11_0 Orchestra 11-15 Sahityani Adalat_No-Chukado (G) 11-40 R H Pandya (Star) 12_0 p m K S Bhurji Khan 12-45 News (M) 12 50 News (G) 12-55 News (H) 1-0 Vazir Bai 1_40 Music 2-30 Music from Film 4-20 Children's Programme (M) 5_0 B R Deodhar 5-40 Nautch Dhun 5-45 Topic of the day talk in English by Mr. Thomas Speed 5_55 Local 6_0 R H Pandya 6-30 News (E) 6-40 News (H) 6-45 Seeta Mavinkurve 7_15 R M Dave 7-30 Vazir Bai (Poona) 7-55 K H Wakankar 8_15 News (M) 8_30 News (G) 8-45 All Fools Day (E) 9 0 News (H) 6_45 Seeta Mavinkurve 7-15 News 9-45 Books Review (E) 10-0 A I R Nonette

A. F. S. T. To Broadcast Commentary On Athletics To-day

All India Radio Bombay will broadcast a running commentary of the Dual Athletic Meet from Brabourne Stadium to-day from 3-15 p.m. to 6-30 on 244 m. and 41.44 m. upto 4-20 p.m. and 41.44 m only from 4-20 to 6-30 p.m. The Commentator will be Mr. A. F. S. Talyarkhan.

Indian Languages Newspapers Association

A general Meeting of the Indian Languages Newspapers Association will be held at 138, Medows Street, Fort, Bombay, to-day (Sunday), at 9-0 a.m.

Progressive Writers' Association

A meeting of the Bombay Progressive Writers' Association will be held to-day (Sunday) at 4-30 p.m. at the office of the People's Theatre (School of Indian Music opposite Opera House). Mr. Debi Prashad Chatterji will speak on "Modern Bengali Poetry". Non-members can attend.

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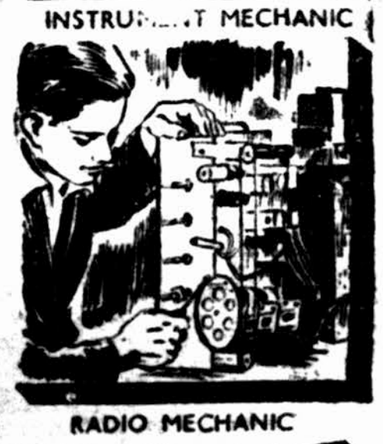

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CUT-FACES COMPETITION

This competition is so simple and at the same time attractive that it will surely appeal to all those who take part in our competitions. There is not the least doubt that this competition will be found interesting by old as well as young of both the sexes, so we hope that many of our readers will take part in it, especially as we are offering a special prize of Rs. 3,000 this time. This indeed offers a very good opportunity for those who wish to earn a substantial amount in the shape of a prize.

The two sets of illustrations one marked A, B, C, ... and the other numbered, 1, 2, 3 . . . . show cut portions of faces. You are asked to pick out the two portions which when joined at the dotted lines make a complete face. You will get a prize if your combinations for the faces correspond with those selected by us.

For example, the upper half of "H" is shown in No. 8. If the dotted line of "8" is placed exactly on that of "H" you would get the perfect face of a man. In order to illustrate this the upper half of the face, as depicted in No. 8 is shown shaded in "H". Thus No. 8 is entered against "H" in the coupon.

You may similarly fill in the rest of the coupon and send as many entries as you like with annas eight per coupon before Wednesday 11th April, 1945 subject to and observing the following rules:

1. Competitor's name and address must be written in full in block Capital letters on each and every entry coupon

2. Entries will be received at the counter during Office Hours from 10-30 a.m. to 6-30 p.m.

3. Solution of this competition will be accepted on ordinary paper, cut approximately to the size of the Coupon.

4. Entrance Fee can be remitted by Money Order or by Postal Order or by Postage Stamps. Insufficient amount will disqualify all the entries.

5. All entries must be received in this Office by the last Post on the closing date given below. Any entry received after this date will not be included in the competition.

6. Corrected or mutilated entries or those having more than one number entered in any space will be disqualified

7. In case of ties, the Management reserves the right to distribute the Prize Money among the winning competitors in any manner they like

8. No responsibility is accepted for any entry coupon mislaid, lost or delayed. Proof of posting will not be accepted as proof of delivery or receipt

9. In no case will any entrance fee or money sent with entry coupons be refunded or credited to another competition or account. No communication will be accepted and replied to if it is sent along with the entry coupon. If any correspondence is sent along with the entries Competition Department will not be held responsible in any way.

10. This Competition is run by the "Bombay Chronicle" Co. Ltd., but readers of the "Bombay Samachar" and the "Bombay Sentinel" can also take part in it. This Competition has been licensed by the Collector of Bombay, under Licence No. 6 dated 12th May, 1941.

11. Under NO circumstances correspondence will be entered into or interviews granted in connection with this competition.

12. All Competitors enter this competition on the distinct understanding that the Competition Manager's decision is absolutely final and legally binding in all matters pertaining to this Competition. This is an express condition of entry.

Competitors can submit as many entries as they like, with entrance fee of Annas 8 for each, written, legibly on ordinary paper, cut approximately to the size of our coupon.

Address:

Competition Manager,
The "Bombay Chronicle",
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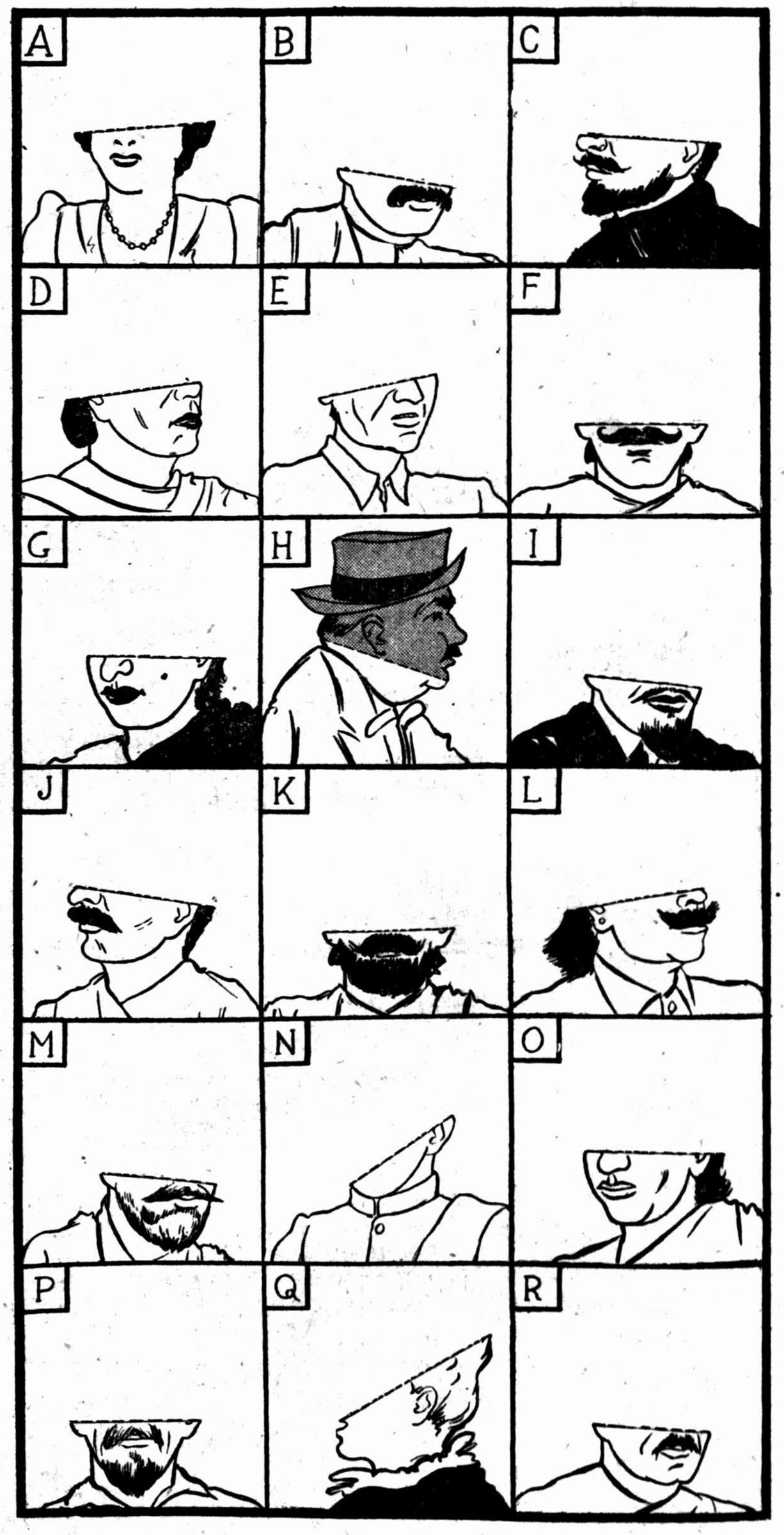
Closing Date WEDNESDAY 11th APRIL 1945



Cut-Faces Competition

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE
AHMEDABAD MUNICIPALITY

SALE OF MUNICIPAL PLOTS ON THE KALUPUR RELIEF ROAD, (JINNAH ROAD) BY TENDERS.

THE AHMEDABAD MUNICIPALITY proposes to sell certain plots in Section Nos. II, III, and VII, of Kalupur Relief Road (Jinnah Road) by inviting tenders. The tenders will be opened on Monday, the 9th April, 1945 at 4-0 P. M. The amount of Rs. 500/- as earnest money for each plot will have to be paid in advance. No tender will be valid unless the earnest money is paid. The up-set price is shown in the tender form and no tender will be accepted if it is below the up-set price.

Further particulars and information regarding the plots to be sold can be had from the Estate and City Improvement Officer from 3 to 6 P.M. on working days. The tender form will be had on payment of Re. 1/- and a copy of the plan of each section will be given on payment of Rs. 2/-.

(Sd.) M. A. PATEL,
Chief Officer,
Ahmedabad Municipality.
Municipal Office,
Ahmedabad, D/- 15-3-1945. 2537

CANAL SIGNALLERS

WANTED a large number for temporary appointments with future prospects for deserving men. Pay according to qualifications and length of experience up to Rs. 50/- P. M. plus dearness allowance. No age restriction, provided strong enough to work. Single railway fare for joining will be paid. Apply with testimonials stating pay required to Superintending Engineer, 1st Circle, Bahawalpur. 2654

NOTICE

APPLICATIONS will be received by the undersigned up to 1-5-45 for the following posts in the Indian Lac Research Institute: (a) One Research Assistant for Chemical Section (b) One Research Assistant for Entomological Section (c) One Assistant Crop Statistician. Posts temporary for the duration of war in the first instance. Qualifications: For (a) M.Sc. in Chemistry with research experience, preferably in paints, varnishes, natural resins or rubber. For (b) M.Sc. in Zoology with research experience in Entomology. For (c) Degree in mathematics or science with post-graduate training in statistics. Experience in statistical compilation. Practical knowledge of agricultural or railway statistics, or crop forecasting an additional qualification. Must have a sound physique and be able to tour constantly. Scale of pay: For (a) & (b) Rs. 150-150-10-200-E.B.-15-305; for (c) 100-5-150. Free unfurnished quarters or an allowance of 10 per cent of pay in lieu thereof plus dearness or war allowance, as the case may be, and free medical aid (to employees only) in all cases. Single inter class railway fares each way will be granted to candidates called for interview. Candidates already in service must send their applications through the heads of departments concerned. P. K. Bose, Director, Indian Lac Research Institute, P. O. NAMKUM Ranchi, Bihar. 2685

Vacancy for an experienced journalist as Sub-Editor, Apply "Bombay Chronicle".

CITY MARKETS

GOLD & SILVER

BOMBAY, March 31.

The local bullion market was fairly steady to-day with a modest turnover. The market still remains manipulated and a section believes that the end of war in Europe does not mean the end of war with Japan. The forward Gold market opened to-day at Rs. 72/6 and fluctuated between Rs. 72/4 and Rs. 72/8 and steadied at Rs. 72/6. Ready Gold was quoted at Rs. 72/12 and Sovereigns were placed at Rs. 49/14. Forward Silver opened at Rs. 127/12 and advanced to Rs. 128/6. Ready Silver was quoted at Rs. 128/10.

BOMBAY COTTON

The cotton market opened to-day at Rs. 448 for May delivery and improved to Rs. 449 under scattered buying. At this level there was renewed selling and May declined to Rs. 447 and steadied at Rs. 447/8. The immediate course of the market depends upon developments of May position but the long range outlook remains bullish and purchases on declines are expected to show good profits.

The market closed as under:—

Ready Silver	128	14	0
Silver Settlement	128	8	0
Ready Gold	72	6	0
Gold Settlement	72	0	0

Cotton Parity

Indian Cotton May Contract is 475 cent points below New York May at Exchange rate 331.

High And Low Cotton Prices

BOMBAY, March 31.

	H.	Low.	Closing at 6 p.m.
I.C.C. May	449-1/2	445-1/2	449
I.C.C. July	464	460-1/4	463-1/4
I.C.C. Sept.	472	468-1/2	471-3/4
Karachi 4F May	46/11/0	46/4/9	46/7/3

CALICUT QUOTATIONS

CALICUT March 31. Cocoanut Raw 82 Dry 79 Cocoanutoil 335 Copra Office 193 Dilpasand 210 Mad. rasnottam 220 Goodgooda 220 Pepper Wynaad 370 Country 360 Dryginger Chernad 230 Srnad 215 Coffee Robusta 82

U. S PARITY PRICE.

WASHINGTON March 29.

The Department of Agriculture announces parity price of cotton 21.45 as of March 15th.

****

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R·I·N

India's Navy

Details can be obtained from the Secretary of your nearest Selection Board, your District Magistrate, Commissioner of Police, or Recruiting Office, or D.A.A.G (Rtg) at Bombay.

A proud appointment in itself, a commission in the Royal Indian Naval Volunteer Reserve also has many additional advantages. For example, there is no doubt that the training and subsequent experience gained while serving in the R. I. N. will provide many men with extremely fine qualifications for a successful career in civil life. Also, Government are keeping vacant a large number of posts under their control. These posts will later be filled by men who have served with India's Forces. Vast plans are now being made to enable candidates from the Services to undergo special training at Government expense, in selected trades and professions. Those youths who give up their University studies to join the Services are entitled to valuable post-war educational concessions whereby they may continue their studies after the war. Actual details may be obtained from Universities.

AAA 51

STAR STUDDED SPARKLING SHOW
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Bombay Races, Final Day

Disastrous Close Down At Mahaluxmi

Cobalt Beats Fancied Rath In War Gifts Fund Cup

By Our Racing Correspondent

Curtain was rung down to-day at Mahaluxmi at the end of the programme for the Second Day of the War Gifts Fund Meeting.

The day was sorely disastrous for the punters who flocked there in big strength.

The War Gifts Fund Cup ended in a facile win for Cobalt. The greatly fancied Rath kept chasing the winner at all posts and finished in that order when passing the winning post.

In the other Cup race, the Indian Air Force Cup, Black Hussar also did not encounter serious resistance when winning pulling up by 1 1/2 lengths.

Jockey Burn rode a double and with Britt drawing blank, the former attained the Championship.

There was a nasty accident in the Third Division of the Free French Plate. Apprentice Khalil came a cropper from Double Action in front of the second enclosure and as having sustained serious injuries, he was removed to hospital in a unconscious state.

A double was recorded for the Maharaja of Gwalior through the medium of Rentenmark and Wellington. The second-named who was the least fancied in the Gwalior trio, shot out like a bullet over the last fifty yards and narrowly wore down the run away Talisman. Malik al Jiyad, the rage in the betting in the race had the services of Edgar Britt but after chasing Talisman for six furlongs, he fell out of the fray.

Sixty-five punters cashed the treble event pool. Each ticket fetched Rs. 1,902/8.

THE GREECE STAKES Division II Distance 7 furlongs.

Mr. Jacob Heskel's MANDUB AL GHARB 7-9 Dar 1
M/s. Syed Fatah and Merchant's SAHRAN 8-12 Raut 2
M/s. H. Patel and H. Chotani's AL SHANFARA 7-12 Fahad 3
Maj (Miss) McHugh's KABADON JAMIL 7-9 Hassan Ali 4

Won by 1 length, 1/2 length, Head
Time: 1 minute 37 3/5 seconds.
All ran.
Tote paid: Win Rs. 217. Places Rs. 92, Rs. 26 and Rs. 287.
Trainer: Somekh.

THE POLAND PLATE. Division II.—Distance 5 furlongs.

Mr Diamond's BIG PEARL 8-7 Burn 1
Capt. W D Vanrenen's BEAU NASH 8-7 Evans 2
Mr M P Jain's MAN SAROVAR 8-7 B McQuade 3
H H Maharaja of Gwalior's RAO BAHADUR 8-7 Roberts 4

All ran.
Won by 1 1/2 lengths, Head, 1 1/2 lengths.
Time: 1 minute 4 2/5 seconds.
Tote paid: Win Rs. 75. Places Rs. 24, Rs. 24 and Rs. 29
Trainer: Higgins.

THE FREE FRENCH PLATE. Division III—Distance 6 furlongs.

Mr J H Sorabji's DOODAL DANDY 8-12 Burn 1
The Chief of Patdi's CAREFREE 8-0 West 2
Mr W W Egerton's GOLDEN SHOT 8-10 Evans 3
Major A Svamvur's CATCH ME 8-5 Southey 4

Not run: Cherry Red.
Won by 3/4 length, 1/2 length, 2 lengths.
Time: 1 minute 17 4/5 seconds.
Tote paid: Win Rs. 40. Places Rs. 18, Rs. 59 and Rs. 25.
Trainer: Selvaratnam.

THE POLAND PLATE. Division I.—Distance 5 furlongs.

H H Maharaja of Gwalior's RENTENMARK 8-7 Roberts 1
H H Maharaja of Baroda's TURF STAR 8-7 Britt 2
Mr J D Banatwalla's FLYING HOME 8-7 Sibbritt 3
Mr J D Banatwalla's SUPER CHARGE 8-7 K Hasan .....

Not run: Prime Minister, Creme d'Antibes and Mordant.
Won by 4 lengths, Short head, 3 1/2 lengths.
Time: 1 minute 2 4/5 seconds.
Tote paid: Win Rs. 39. Places Rs. 14, Rs. 14 and Rs. 15
Trainer: Capt. Lad.

THE INDIAN AIR FORCE CUP—Distance 1 1/4 miles.

Mr J D Banatwalla's BLACK HUSSAR 9-4 K Hasan 1
Mr R T Wandekar's KARAM AL RAHIM 9-0 H Singh 2
Mr Chandulal J Shah's SHREE RANJIT 9-0 Bhoor Singh 3
Mrs. A L J Talib's BURHAN II 9-4 Dar 4

Not run: Princess Hamiyah, Hormazdiyar and Insaf.
Won by 1 1/2 lengths, Short head, 2 1/2 lengths.
Time: 2 minutes 22 3/5 seconds.
Tote paid: Win Rs. 44. Places Rs. 17, Rs. 17 and Rs. 35.
Trainer: Meherjee.

THE FREE FRENCH PLATE. Division II—Distance 6 furlongs.

Mr Hajee E Dossa's PRINCE CHARMING 8-7 Kheemsingh .. 1
H H Maharaja of Gwalior's NISHAT 9-2 Chavan 2
Mr Alimahomed Chotani's LUSTRE 8-4 Britt 3
H H Maharaja of Gwalior's BLACK QUEEN 8-13 Roberts 4

Not run: Pure Emerald, Lioness and False Pride.
Won by Neck, 1 1/2 length, 1 length.
Time: 1 minute 17 3/5 seconds.
Tote paid: Win Rs. 99. Places Rs. 31, Rs. 61 and Rs. 18
Trainer: Dinshaw.

THE WAR GIFTS FUND CUP—Distance 1 1/4 miles.

Mr I G Gajjar's COBALT 8-4 Brace 1
Mr E P A Fernando's RATH 9-0 Evans 2
Messrs. Ibrahim Mahomed and Abdul Husain Ali Akbar's PASSING BELL 8-6 Kheemsingh .. 3
Mr V G Pittie's CYRENAICA 8-11 Burn 4

All ran.
Won by 1 1/4 lengths, 3 lengths, 1/2 length.
Time: 2 minutes 10 1/5 seconds.
Tote paid: Win Rs. 69. Places Rs. 23, Rs. 14 and Rs. 19
Trainer: Raymond.

THE FREE FRENCH PLATE. Division I—Distance 6 furlongs.

Mr Osman Chotani's PRINCESS PADMA 9-3 Raffaele 1
Lady Sherbanoo Chinoy's SILVER-LINING 9-4 B McQuade 2
H H Maharaja of Gwalior's USHA 8-12 Robert ..K..... 3
Mr Yousuff N Lallji's THE JUDGE 8-5 Khade 4

Not run: Chiang-Kai-Shek.
Won by 2 lengths, Short head, 1 1/2 lengths.
Time: 1 minute 16 seconds.
Tote paid: Win Rs. 58. Places Rs. 24, Rs. 49 and Rs. 41.
Trainer: H Chotani.

THE GREECE STAKES. Division I—Distance 7 furlongs.

Maharaja of Gwalior's WELLINGTON 8-11 Chavan 1
Mr A Higgins' TALISMAN 8-6 Burn 2
Mr J D Banatwalla's MOZAN 9-1 K Hasan 3
Mr K K Permanand's JOWDAT AL IRAQ 8-3 Bhoor Singh 4

Not run: Halifaya, Waldye and King Hilal.
Tote paid: Win Rs. 55. Places Rs. 112, Rs. 32 and Rs. 26.
Trainer: Capt. Lad.

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Besides these, many other respectable gentlemen and women of India and abroad have been charmed by his honest services.

CONSULT HIM TO-DAY OR WRITE TO

PROTEST AGAINST REQUISITIONING

NEW DELHI, March 31 (Reuter): Mr. Jinaraja Hegde (Congress) has tabled an adjournment motion for the Central Assembly to discuss Governments "failure to prevent indiscriminate and excessive requisitioning of food grains under threat of prosecution, resulting in scarcity of food and enforced starvation for two days in a week in South Kanara district."

Mr. Hegde has also given notice of another adjournment motion to discuss "the prevention of worship in Hindu temples as the result of requisitioning of property for military purposes at Kumbla in the district of South Kanara."

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San Francisco Conference To Be Postponed

DEVELOPMENTS IN EUROPE PREVENT ATTENDANCE OF LEADING FOREIGN MINISTERS

WASHINGTON, March 30 (Reuter): Events in Europe may prevent attendance of Foreign Ministers of the leading powers at the San Francisco Conference, says Reuter's special correspondent.

Official Washington quarters today were discussing the possibility of postponement of the conference in view of this.

Soviet Foreign Commissar Molotov, it is understood will be prevented from attending by Soviet budget discussions.

It is further recognised that the premature announcement of the Soviet-United States proposal to amend the Dumbarton Oaks Charter will precipitate diplomatic exchanges between the powers, which may not be completed before the conference pens.

The International Jurists' Conference and the Conference of Colonial Powers have also to complete their proceedings in time to present the San Francisco Conference with finished drafts. Finally the work of the American, British and Soviet Commissions to prepare way for the formation of a new Polish Government has proceeded more slowly than was anticipated at Yalta and it is unlikely that Poland will be represented at the conference if the April date is adhered to.

VOTING AT 'FRISCO

CANBERRA, March 31 (Reuter): It is authoritatively stated that Australia will object to smaller nations who have never taken part on war having vote at the San Francisco Conference, if Australia is not to have a separate vote. Australia does not want merely to be included in the Empire Bloc without prior consultation.

A Government spokesman said it felt that Australia's case cannot be properly heard unless she is represented separately. A bloc vote by the British Commonwealth would mean a large number of consultations between all Dominion representatives before each phase of the Conference.

Russia Supports Poland's Demand

MOSCOW, March 31 (Reuter): Moscow radio today stated that the Soviet Government fully supports the demand made by the Polish Provisional Government (formerly the Lublin Committee) for representation at the San Francisco Conference. The Soviet Government has informed the United States Government that it expects an early reply to the proposal concerning the invitation of Poland to the Conference.

U. S. REJECTS SOVIET REQUEST

WASHINGTON, March 31 (Reuter): The United States have rejected the Soviet request for a seat for the Lublin Polish Government at the San Francisco Conference, the State Department announced to-night.

'Cold Blooded Murder'

BOMBAY, March 31 (U.P.I.): Mahatma Gandhi has issued the following statement:—

"If the news is correct that the Asthi and Chimur petition has been rejected it is disturbing. I am opposed to state hangings in every case, but most so in cases like this. Whatever was done by the people on and after the 8th August, 1942 was done under excitement. If these hangings are now carried out, it will be cold blooded calculated murder and worse, because it will be done ceremoniously and under the name of so-called law. It will leave behind nothing, but a great increase in the already existing woeful bitterness.

"How I wish the threatened hangings were given up. They can be, if there is the united voice of India against the impending sentences and such other contemplated sentences."

CHIMUR-ASHTI PRISONERS TO HANG ON 5th APRIL

Nagpur To Observe Hartal?

(From Our Correspondent)

NAGPUR MAHAL, March 31. In the city it was rumoured that seven Chimur-Ashti prisoners are to hang on 5th and 6th April, as their mercy petitions have been rejected by the King. Their relatives rushed to Nagpur and applied for dead bodies. City leaders are busy for hartal.

WHEN SILENCE IS GOLDEN

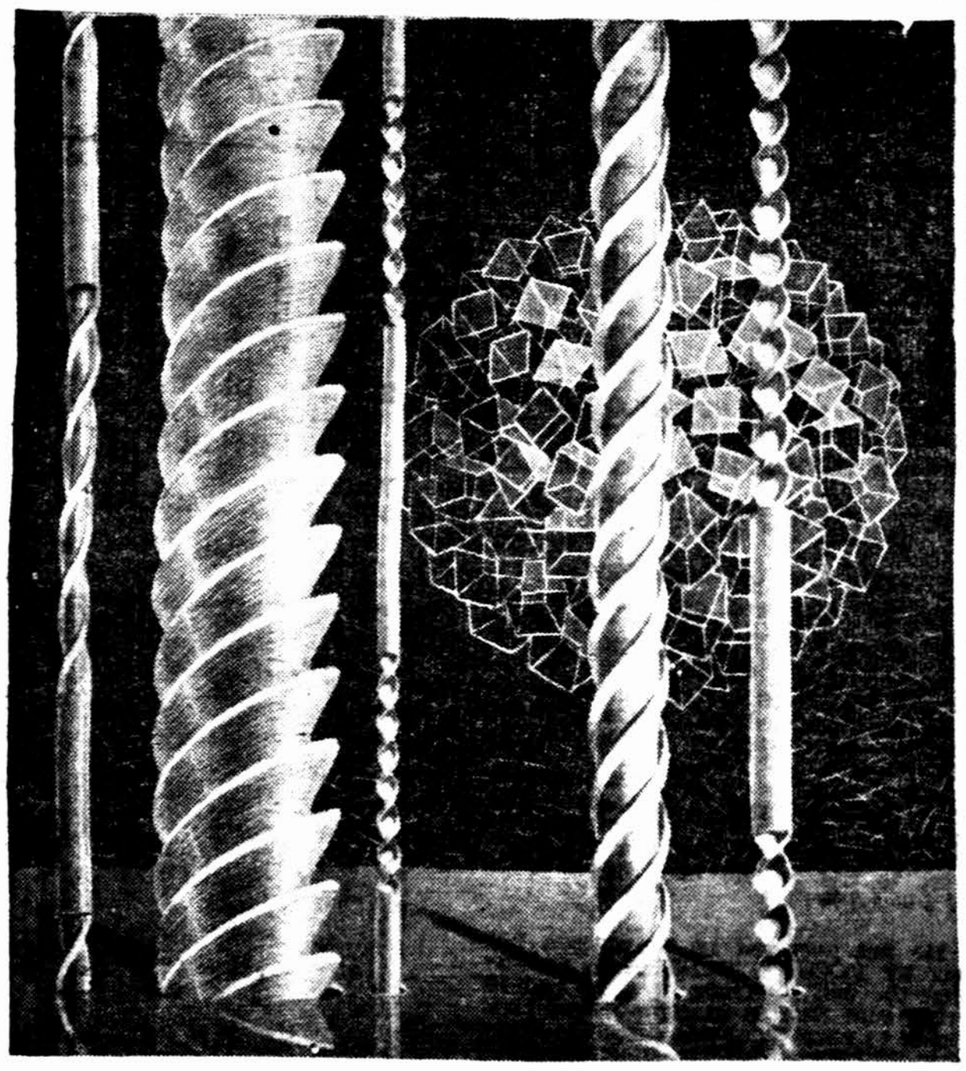
BOMBAY, Saturday (A.P.A.): In reply to a series of questions on current political problems submitted to him my the Associated Press of America, he replied in a brief note to Preston Grover, correspondent of the A.P.A. saying:—

"Silence on my part is the best speech at this moment, and it is to the best contribution I can make toward world peace. When I feel I must speak, I will as I have done today. You will see my public statement about the impending hangings."

NO 'TEST' MATCH PLAY

COLOMBO, March 31 (A.P.I.): There will be no play to-day in the final three-day "Test match" between the All-India touring team and the All-Ceylon Eleven, which was to have begun this morning in view of the state of the ground following rains yesterday and again this morning.

METALS ARE CHEMICALS



THAT is, the 'noble' metal platinum, for example, or the useful copper, can take the form respectively of a grey and a green powder — expressed in chemical formulæ as platinum sulphide (PtS_2) and cupric chloride ($CuCl_2.2H_2O$)! This is a fact worth remembering as we note our daily dependence on metals, and consequently on the work of the chemist in laboratory and factory. If you look around, you will soon recognise that iron is only one of the many metals by which we are served. In the kitchen there is the indispensable remnant of a once proud display of aluminium pots and pans — the missing utensils probably ranging the skies as part of an R.A.F. machine! The taps in kitchen or bathroom may be of nickel or nickel-plated brass. Nickel and chromium alloyed together form the heating elements in electric fires. The filaments in the electric light bulbs are made of that tough and uncommon metal, tungsten. The "tin-helmet" contains manganese — not to be confused with the magnesium in incendiary bombs — and the A.R.P. buckets of sand and water are rendered rust-proof by their coating of zinc. Copper is very important, both alone and in alloys. The nursery thermometer contains mercury. Except in jewellery, there is probably not much platinum — a metal first studied by the English chemist Wollaston about 1802 — in the average home, but morsels of it play an important part in electric bells and in the ignition system of the motor car. A speck of the still rarer metal, iridium, is likely to be found on the tip of the fountain pen. The extraction of these metals from their ores, their scrupulous purification and the careful investigation of the properties which lead to their practical uses, are services performed by the chemist and the British chemical industry.

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HITLER'S ALPINE STRONGHOLD THREATENED

Reds Closing In Along 250-Mile Front

Will Major Battle Rage In Area Of Bratislava?

FROM REUTER'S SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT, MOSCOW, Mar. 31 (Reuter): Massed Soviet armies with their vanguards deep into Austria are today closing in along a 250-mile front on the eastern wall of Hitler's Alpine stronghold.

Two Soviet army groups, under Marshal Tolbukhin and Marshal Malinovsky, the conquerors of Bulgara and Rumania and greater portions of Hungary and Yugoslavia, are converging in four great streams from the Carpathians to the borders of Croatia. The Red Army is forming a huge German salient in which areas vital to the Reich war industry will soon be under pressure from the north, east and south.

The Soviet thrust into Austria has already left the Germans in the Tatra mountains of Czechoslovakia outflanked by 200 miles. It is now possible to speak of a Pincer movement aimed at the whole of Western Czechoslovakia.

Vienna is repidly losing importance as the main southern base of the Reich. With the Russians only 40 miles away the garrison is preparing for street fighting.

Soviet troops under Marshal Malinovsky are racing along both banks of the Danube and the next major battle will probably be in the area of Bratislava now within striking distance.

RATIBOR CAPTURED

LONDON, March 31 (Reuter): The German Overseas rNews Agency said to-day that Marshal Konlev's troops striking across the last few miles of Southern Silesia have entered the important communications centre of Ratibor, eight miles from the Czechoslovak border where it links up with Poland and Germany, and about 18 miles from Moravska-Ostrava. Soviet troops have captured Katscher, west of Ratibor, and about six miles from the border.

The Agency also reported violent street fighting inside the Upper Oder fortress town of Glogau, 55 miles north-west of Breslau.

"Super-Forts" Bomb Japan Again

LONDON, March 31 (Reuter): The Tokyo radio said that 'super-forts' early on Saturday dropped incendiaries in the area around Japans inland sea and round Bungo Strait, while others hit Kyushu most southernly island of Japanese mainland.

ALLIES CAPTURE BURMA TOWN

ADV. HQ. ALFSEA, March 31 (A.P.I.): Following are S.E.A.C. communique highlights:

FOURTEENTH ARMY FRONT: Kyaukse on the main trunk road and railway 24 miles south of Mandalay has been captured. Operations in Meiktila area continue satisfactorily. Fourteenth Army troops advancing south from the direction of Mandalay established contact with our Meiktila garrison at a point ten miles north-east of Meiktila. The town of Mahlaing was entered in the early hours of March 30. Natooyi, 18 miles east of Myingyan on the road to the main north-south railway has been captured.

Soviet Report On The Indian Problem

(Continued from Page 3)

facturers and merchants. Another political organization, having no connection with any of the religious communities, is the Liberal Federation, which differs from the Right, the most moderate wing of the National Congress, only in that its aim is to achieve dominion status and not complete independence.

Mahasabha And League

The two other large all-India political parties are built on the religious community principle. The two main religions in India are Hinduism and Islamism. The largest organization, which represents the interests of the Hindu bourgeoisie and partly of the landlords, is the Hindu-Mahasabha (the Great Hindu League); and the largest Muslim organization is the Muslim League. These organizations are fighting for po'itical privileges for their respective religious communities. In 1940 the Muslim League advanced as the main plank of its platform the demand for the partition of India into two states, *i.e.*, a Muslim state—Pakistan—and a Hindu state—Hindustan.

The political backwardness of India is reflected in the platforms of the political parties and organizations and in their ideology. This applies also to the Indian National Congress, which in general, is undoubtedly a progressive organization. Gandhi, who is the most influential and popular leader of the Indian National Congress, has services to his credit which even his political opponents inside and outside the country do not deny. He has earned great popularity by his efforts to rouse the most backward masses of the Indian peasants and artisans to conscious political life, by his efforts to improve their material conditions, by his ability to speak to the masses in the language they understand, and by his staunch behaviour. It is characteristic however, that the organization of which he is the head has failed to work out a clear po'itical programme, and act as big po'itical parties do in modern states. Moreover, one cannot help noting that the philosophy of Gandhiism fails by a long way to understand the big political problems of the present day, for it bears the strong imprint of the backwardness that is characteristic of the political life of India. Gandhi's philosophy of non-resistance is nothing but a reflection of India's subordinate status, and is totally out of harmony with the fundamental tasks of the present day, particularly in the present war against the forces of aggression which are striving to subjugate the freedom-loving nations. Another paradoxical feature of Gandhi-ism, also due to the specific features of Indian reality, is its hostility towards modern machinery and large-scale industry. It is sufficient to recall that in the European countries "machine-wrecking" movements have not been witnessed for more than a hundred years. Only in the peculiar conditions under which the Indian people are living could a movement, which, on the whole, is progressive, and the object of which is to achieve the independence of its country, accept a philosophy that rejects large-scale industry, without the development of which no country can be independent, either politically or economically.

To a still greater degree is the political backwardness of India reflected in the ideology of such of her political organizations as the Muslim League and Hindu Mahasabha, with their religious community exclusiveness and striving to subordinate national interests to religious distinctions. The division of the inhabitants of India into castes has resulted during the past ten years in efforts to form and activize the po'itical organizations of the "lower" castes, particularly of the "untouchab'e".

The Deadlock

Lastly, one of the bulwarks of India's political backwardness is the large number of feudal and semi-feudal principalities which still exist in India and are in vassal dependence upon Great Britain. The Indian princes play an important, although not independent ro'e in the political life of India. Their aim is, as far as possible, to preserve their feudal or semi-feudal rights and privileges and, therefore, they come out as a conservative force inimical to progress and the democratization of the country.

* * *

India passed through periods of great political tension even before the war. The partial introduction in 1937 of the so-called "new constitution" (the Government of India Act, 1935), which brought about scarcely any material change in the political status of the country, still further intensified the struggle. For different, sometimes quite opposite, reasons, the political organizations and groups in India, representing the most diverse sectors of the population, were dissatisfied with this constitution.

When the war broke out the proclamation of India as a belligerent was differently reacted to by the different political parties and social groups of India.

Despite its hostility to fascism the Indian National Congress declared that it would not support Great Britain in the war unless the British Government proclaimed the independence of India and set up during the war a National Government responsible to the elected section of the Indian Legislative Assembly. Other organizations, including the Muslim League and the Hindu-Mahasabha, although expressing themselves in favour of supporting Great Britain in the war, nevertheless made a number of reservations. Only the above-mentioned Liberal Federation and the Indian princes declared their unreserved support of Great Britain.

As a consequence, the British Government felt obliged, through the Viceroy of India and the Secretary of State for India, to state its willingness to grant India dominion status at the earliest possible date after the war. During the war it has enlarged the Viceroy's Executive Council by adding to it a number of Hindus. Nevertheless, even the Indian po'itical organizations most friendly to Great Britain such as the Liberal Federation, regarded these measures as totally inadequate. As for the National Congress, it expressed its protest by instructing the Congress Ministers in the provincial governments (in eight out of the eleven in India) to resign. Thus arose the situation which the foreign press described as a political deadlock.

Cripps Mission

In the beginning of 1942, in connection with the advance of the Japanese troops through the territory of the Indo-Chinese Peninsula towards the frontiers of India, the British Government tried to reach a compromise with the social and political groups in India. With this object Stafford Cripps was sent to India as a representative of the British War Cabinet with proposals drawn up by that Cabinet for discussion with the leaders of the most important political organizations. These proposals were summed up in the following points.

1. The creation of a new Indian Union which shall constitute a dominion.

2. The right of any province or principaltiy to remain outside the Indian Union, to form a separate dominion or retain its present relations with Great Britain.

3. During the war all responsibility for the government of India and for her defence is to rest on the Viceroy, while the political parties of India could take part in the work of mobilizing the resources of the country through their representatives on the Viceroy's Executive Council or by co-operating in various voluntary public measures.

It is well known that Cripps' mission failed and India remained in the position of a colony. On various grounds the British War Cabinet's proposals were rejected by the most important political organizations of India. The Indian National Congress stated that it demanded a declaration granting India complete independence, objected to the point which granted provinces and principalities the right to remain outside of the Indian Union on the ground that it was a menace to India's unity, and demanded the immediate formation in India of a fullpowered National Government that would bear full responsibility both for the government of the country and for its defences. As Cripps subsequently stated, the disagreement on the latter point was the decisive cause of the rejection of the British War Cabinet's proposal by the Indian National Congress.

Thus, Cripps' mission failed to settle the political troubles in India. On the contrary, the political situation became more tense. The gulf between the Government and the Indian National Congress became wider. The Congress persistently demanded the formation of a responsible Cabinet and refused to support the Government's war efforts until this was granted. At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Congress held on August 8, 1942, it was resolved to launch, at the end of August, a campaign of civil disobedience if the British Government failed to satisfy the Congress demands.

The August Movement

Immediately after this decision was adopted the Government arrested all the prominent leaders of the Indian National Congress, including its Muslim Chairman, Abul Ka'am Azad, Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and others. The arrest of the Congress leaders evoked a mass protest movement, and in some places open collisions with the police. The movement assumed a spontaneous, unorganized character, of which, undoubtedly, the agents of the Axis power took advantage. As a result of the activities of *provocateurs*, railway stations were wrecked in a number of places and strikes broke out at several munition factories. Many trade unions, labour leaders, and a number of po'itical organizations protested against these excesses and called upon the workers not to down tools so as not to hold up supplies for the troops who were barring the way for the aggressors. The unrest spread to some parts of the rural districts. It did not assume a nation-wide character, however, and remained sporadic and local. The movement subsided rather soon.

The cessation of unrest did not however, imply that the political deadlock in India had come to an end. Almost the whole of public opinion in India, including even the parties and political groups which had strongly opposed the civil disobedience campaign, demanded the liberation of the Congress leaders as an essential condition precedent for the removal of the deadlock.

The failure of Cripps' mission, and the subsequent events in particular, caused great disappointment and anxiety not only in India, but also in Great Britain, the United States and other democratic countries. Many influential English newspapers expressed the hope that the Government would not confine itself to this one attempt to settle the Indian crisis, but would respond to the demands of the most important political organizations of India and draw up another programme, which might serve as a basis for agreement. Both in the House of Commons and in the House of Lords numerous questions were put to the Government on the situation in India. Lord Amery, the Secretary of State for India, stated in reply to a question that responsibility for the failure of Cripps' mission rested primarily upon the Indian po'itical parties, which could not reach agreement among themselves. He stated that a responsible Government for India was out of the question until the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League reached agreement and guarantees for the protection of the interests of the princes, the "untouchables," and other minorities, had been created.

U. S. Attitude

As for the United States, its press and public circles repeatedly expressed grave apprehensions that the po'itical situation in India would hinder the full and all-sided utilization of her resources in the war against the aggressor. Especially characteristic of this were the numerous utterances in the American press in connection with the recall from India of Philips, the President's representative.

Associating itself with the main thesis expressed in the memorandum attributed to Philips, in which it was stated that the political situation in India did not conduce to the mobilization of her resources for the war, the *Washington Post* in September 1944 stated that the people of India at present had little reason to regard this war as their own.

Disapproval of the Anglo-Indian Government's policy was also expressed by several official persons and members of the United States House of Representatives and Senate. In particular, the opinion was widespread in the United States that the arrest and detention of a number of Congress leaders was a blunder.

Up to the beginning of 1944, the situation in India remained practically unchanged. In May 1944, Gandhi was released. True, Lord Amery repeatedly emphasized that Gandhi's release did not indicate any change in the British Government's policy, and

(Continued on Page 17)

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CHUCK IT, JOVE!

"The Gospel of Saint Amery" by Jove, Kitab Mahal, Zero Road, Allahabad. Price Rs. 2.

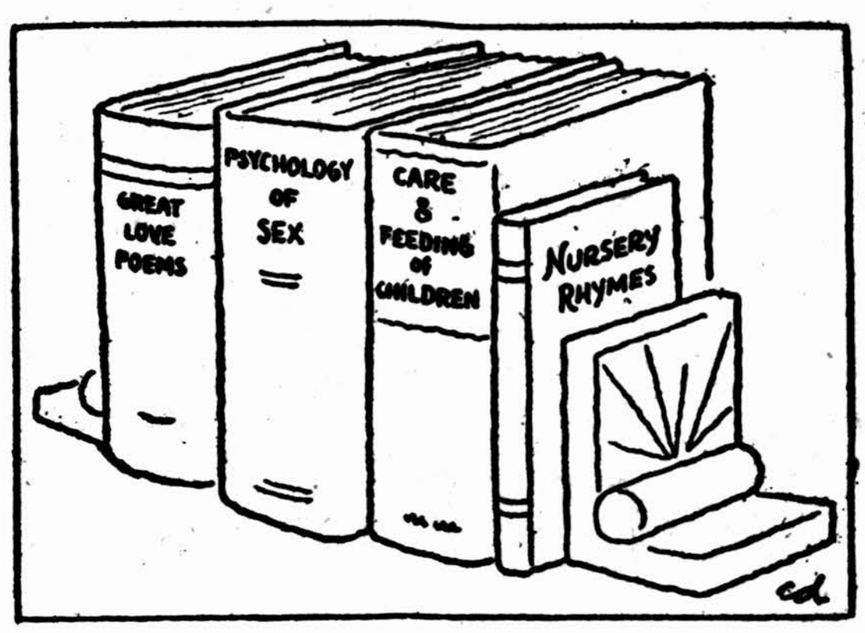
This is No. 2 of Kitab Mahal National Broadcast Series, the first being a pamphlet on the "Indian Deadlock" by K. M. Munshi. Mr. Munshi has also contributed a foreword to this book which begins. "'Jove' is a figure familiar enough not to need introduction. To the readers of "The Social Welfare" (which, of course, is Mr. Munshi's own journal) all over India, his weekly column has become an attractive feature." The Foreword concludes; "I am sure Jove's first book will be as instructive as enjoyable." As what?

If the author needs further introduction to the reader—*pace* Mr. Munshi, it is provided by the publisher. The "first blurb declares" Readers of "Social Welfare" etc. need no introduction to this "enfant terrible" of Indian journalism." The publisher however, seems to have changed his mind by the time the last form was printed and has presented on the second flap a full biographical sketch of the author, complete with a photograph of Jove. Which is all to the good, for he doesn't half look like an "enfant terrible." He is thirty-four, slim and quite mild-looking.

Shake hands, Jove! I do respect your pen-name, even though I am now enlightened with your christian and surname. You see I, too, write under a pseudonym, though, unlike you I have yeu to prepare my, "Who's Who." 'Jove' is good, though I wonder why you should have selected it unless it be, because, Jove-like, you hurl thunderbolts at the heads of your readers every week.

Again it beats me why you should have called this collection of your writings in "Social Welfare". "The Gospel of Saint Amery." While glancing through the pages of your book I came across the name of Churchill oftener than that of Amery—"Leopoldbhai S. Amery" as you call him. Then why St. Amery and why Gospel—unless they, too, are illustrations of your "vivid imagination, light humour and lashing sarcasm," to quote your editor and Foreworder, Mr. Munshi again.

A bramble, however, remains as thorny by whatever name it is called and what the reader—who is recommended by the publisher "to read and read again this Gospel—is likely to object to. is not the title but the contents



of your book. Your thunderbolts may have created a dent or two in the columns of "Social Welfare" when they actually fell down, but that's no reason why you should have collected them and presented this volume to an unsuspecting public. It appears like a museum of literary monstrosities, even if it is blessed by Saint, sorry, Shriyut Munshi.

No! I don't want to light a candle to guide the reader through the 94 pages of this bathetic publication. It is unworthy of any notice, except perhaps a danger signal—to you, Jove as much to your reader! For you appear to be all too misguided and your pen has run away with your discretion. Lest, however, the reader suspect me of being actuated by malice prepense after reading the fulsome Foreword—I needs must reproduce here a stinking specimen from this vulgar Gospel.

Jove is itched by the famous address delivered by Lord Wavell at the Pilgrim's Luncheon before coming to India to perpetrate the following conversation piece between the Frontier Guard and the Pilgrim.

Guard; Who goes there? Halt!

Pilgrim; Viscount Wavell of Arakan, Winchester—and of the Viscountess.

G: ...Of Arakan! Jap? Enemy? (points the gun.)

P: Oh no, pucca British, Sir...

G: What's there in that handbag of yours?

P: Nothing contraband, Sir, nothing. Here, this is just a small Package "love for India."

G: "Love for India!" Under the Ideological Customs Regulation, it comes under the category of Dangerous explosives.

P: But mine is different. Its the Soldier's love.

G: Not much. Some love with Bible, others with bank balances, still others with the bayonet. All the same in basic English... But what is that? May be something against the Genetic Convention.

P: Oh, that's my wife... Just *one*. Permitted, I believe, though post-war convention, I know, might require three perhaps.

G: She must take up some special war service, can she, besides breeding dogs and bulls. Say, Red Cross, Tuberculosis, Malaria Hydrocele?

Chuck it, Jove. This is muck-pure, unadulterated, hundred percent muck. MUCK! Take my friendly word and chuck it, Jove!

And that goes for your patron-saint, too. Not Leopoldbhai S. Amery but Kanhaiyalal M. Munshi. Chuck such Forewords, Mr. Munshi. Chuck them, for God's sake!

JUPITER.

BOOKS AND THEIR AUTHORS

My dear Sisters & Brothers,

Shri Ramnik V. Shah, General Secretary, Bombay Provincial Balkan-ji-Bari, has addressed the following letter to Shri A. V. Thakkar, Secretary, Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Fund Trust:—

Dear Sir,—We believe you are aware of the activities of our organisation Balkan-ji-Bari. It has been doing its best-silently, slowly and steadily-for the children's welfare since about 18-19 years. We admit that we have not been able to achieve much-but that probably because we have not been helped with voluntary donations by the public, and because we have relied too much on the Sacrifice of individuals. Our Workers are all honorary and of course, they have been giving as much time and energy for the children's cause as possible. We do not mind bringing this fact to your notice, as our President Mr B. G. Kher did at the time of forwarding collections for the Kasturba Fund to Mahatma Gandhi, that whereas we have collected donations for other "Funds," our own organisation has remained as "poor" as ever.

We are happy to note now that there is an awakening regarding the children's welfare work, and that your Trust is specially going to do a great deal in this connection. We thought, therefore, that we may approach you with a request to give our organisation the privilege and honour to carry on the work which it has been endeavouring to do so far. and to enable it to expand its activities in the villages. We have very often appealed to all concerned to help us in co-ordinating the activities for children's cause. It is a pity that we have hardly received any response, but we have not despaired, and earnestly hope that we shall be able to secure at least your co-operation. If necessary, we shall be pleased and happy to discuss the matter with you personally at your convenience. Hoping to hear soon from you in reply and thanking you very much,-yours in Service, Ramnik V. Shah, General Secretary, B. P. Balkan-ji-Bari.

Copies of the above letter have been forwarded for favour of information and necessary action to (1) Mahatma Gandhi, Chairman; and (2) Miss Mridulaben Sarabhai, Organising Secretary.

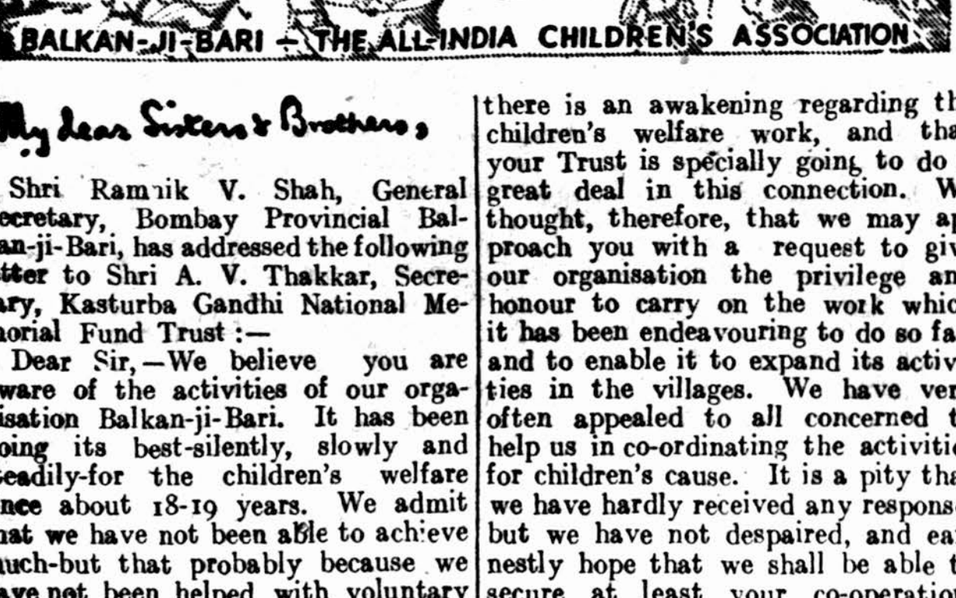
* * *

"To-day every civilised nation in the world is seriously considering the national problem of training the young people for perfect and efficient citizenship. In America and Europe, Systematic and Scientific efforts are being made on a nation-wide scale to educate these young minds on lines most helpful to building up of the State. We, in India, have paid very little attention to this great problem, and it is high time we started thinking about it," declared Shri S. K. Patil presiding over the Annual concert and Gathering organised by the Tardeo North Branch of Bankan-ji-Bari, held recently at the Sunderbai Hall.

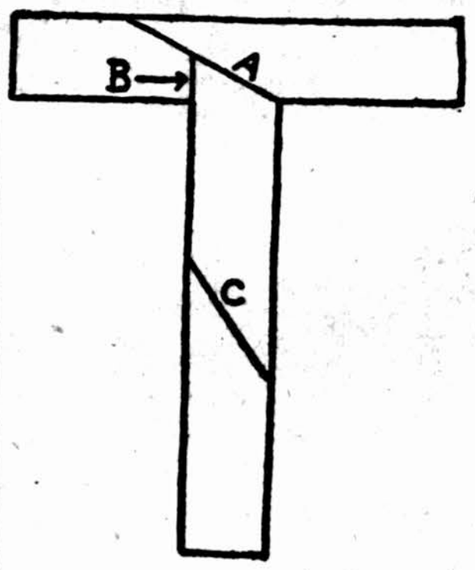
Continuing, Shri Patil said that this organization of Balkan-ji.Bari had given a lead in educating these young minds, and hence it deserved the congratulations of the country. Later on, he observed, we could find points of contact between this movement and the new and fresh movement organised under the inspiring leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. By blending these two movements together, we could have a basis for the training of the children's mind which would answer the requirements of the nation.

* * *

Khar Balkan-ji-Bari had a whole day's excursion at Juhu. Tardeo North Branch arranged a two hours' entertainment programme for children at the Worli Seaface Municipal Garden. Talmaki Wadi Balkan-ji-Bari attended the Film Exhibition arranged by the U. S. Information of War. Out of the films shown, (1) A Child Went Forth, and (2) Building of Boys, were appreciated the most.



Day Dreams of Delightful Things



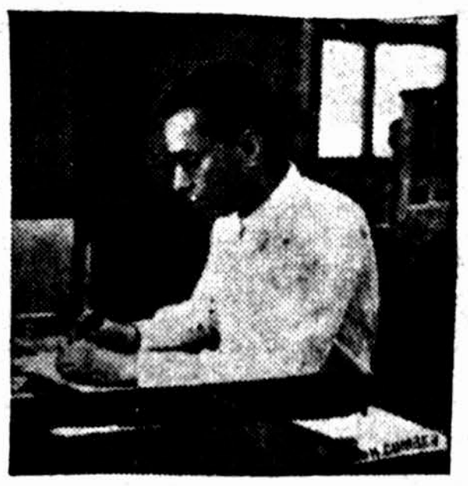
THE "T" PUZZLE

Get some stiff paper and draw the letter "T" so that the width at any part measures one inch; and when you have done this cut it out neatly.

Next divide it up into four sections; but do it very carefully. First see that the cut marked B meets the cut A somewhere close to its middle point, not at its end. And try to make the lowest piece of the vertical leg almost but not quite equal in length to the section of the arm, at the right. Note, also, that the cuts A and C should not be parallel.

If you follow these instructions you will have a very easy-looking puzzle which will be really difficult to solve.

Try it on your friends. Shuffle the four pieces and ask them to re-form the letter T.



Shri Ram B. Motwani General Secretary, Sind Provincial Balkan-ji-Bari, was released from the Karachi District Prison last week after a detention of about two and a half years—Children of the Karachi Balkan-ji-Bari went to receive him at the jail gates and garlanded him profusely.

All Good Wishes from
your loving,
Dada

"Gulistan"
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Soviet Report On The Indian Problem

(Continued from Page 15)

that it had been prompted exclusively by consideration for Gandhi's health. Nevertheless, after Gandhi's release preparations were begun for various political negotiations. Gandhi offered to meet Jinnah, the leader of the Muslim League, to settle controversial questions.

Numerous Englishmen active in politics have long pointed to Hindu-Muslim strife as the main obstacle to the introduction of urgent measures for the democralization of the political system of India. Undoubtedly, religious strife has increased in India during the past decades. Nevertheless, even this negative phenomenon can scarcely be explained without taking into consideration the main evil, viz. India's political backwardness. In particular, many, not without good grounds, point to certain specific features of the Indian electoral system (religious community constituencies), the principles on which the Indian Civil Service and Army are recruited, and so forth, as the direct causes of this phenomenon.

The demand of the Muslim League for the partition of India into two states—Pakistan and Hindustan—was sharply opposed by the Indian National Congress, as well as by a number of other Indian organizations, which stated that the partition of India would lead to her enfeeblement. Pakistan was opposed not only by all-Indian organizations like the National Congress and the Liberal Federation, and not only by Hindu organizations such as the Hindu Mahasabha, but also by a number of Muslim organizations (Jamiat ul Ulema, Ahrar, and others) and by all the Muslim members of the Indian National Congress. Even a section of the Muslim League expressed opposition to the proposal to partition India.

Gandhiji's Lead

Desiring to reach an aggreement with the Muslim League at all costs, a number of Indian political organizations, and prominent Congress leaders who were at large at that time, began to advocate the granting to Muslims of the right to self-determination in some form or other. This was strongly supported by Rajagopalachari, a prominent member of the Congress and ex-Premier of the Government of Madras. The All-India Congress of Trade Unions, which met at Nagpur in March 1944, expressed itself in favour of granting right to self-determination to all the nationalities of India, including the Muslim nationalities.

On his release Gandhi expressed a desire to co-operate in bringing about agreement between the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League as he regarded this as the most important condition for achieving national unity. Through Rajagopalachari, he sent to the Muslim League offers to open negotiations, and in the proposals he drafted he pointed out that in his opinion the relations between Pakistan and Hindustan should be established on a federal basis. Jinnah, not without some delay, expressed willingness to open negotiations, which took place in the autumn of last year. The results, however, were nil. Giving his reason for the breakdown of the negotiations Jinnah stated that the Muslim League would not agree to any connection between Pakistan and Hindustan, and demanded the complete secession of Pakistan. Moreover Gandhi's demand for a plebiscite in those provinces where Muslims constitute no more than seventy per cent of the population was also inacceptable in Jinnah's opinion. The Muslim League demanded that Baluchistan, Sind, the Punjab, Bengal and Assam, within their present boundaries, be included in Pakistan without any plebiscite. Gandhi, however, expressed the hope that the negotiations would be resumed and stated that were it not for a third party agreement would have been reached.

The failure of the negotiations between Jinnah and Gandhi caused widespread disappointment in India, and dissatisfaction was even expressed by several prominent leaders of the Muslim League. At the same time, a number of English newspapers and journals in India as well as in England, such as the *Civil and Military Gazette*, *Times of India*, the *Spectator*, and other wrote that the breakdown of the negotiations once again proved how profound and irreconcilable were the antagonisms between Hindus and Muslims. Much earlier, when the negotiations had only just started, the *Times*, pointing to the difficulty of the task that confronted Gandhi and Jinnah, had already emphasized that even the success of these negotiations would not solve the Indian problem because the "Sikh problem," and the problems of the "untouchables" and the Indian princes, would still remain unsolved.

Crux Of Problem

It cannot be denied of course, that India is faced with numerous complex problems, which are particularly aggravated by her colonial position. India is a multi-national country. The religious communities play an important role in her political life. Extremely influential forces are interested in perpetuating the political and ideological disunity. The solution of the numerous problems arising out of the political life of India is by no means an easy matter, but there can scarcely be any doubt that they are already knocking at the door, demanding immediate solution.

The key to success in this matter is the elimination of the main cause of India's weakness—her political backwardness. If democracy is consistently introduced in all spheres of the political life of the country, if the democratic principle of equality irrespective of race, nationality and religion is adhered to, India can throw off the burden of colonial backwardness that is crushing her peoples, overcome the obstacles in her path of economic and cultural development, and occupy her proper place among the freedom-loving countries of the world.

"Oh, doctor," cried the wild-eyed man, "I'm dreadfully afflicted, The ghosts of my departed relatives come and perch on the tops of the fence posts all round my garden when dusk is falling. I can look out into the gloaming any evening and see a couple of dozen spooks sitting on top of the posts, waiting, waiting, waiting! What shall I do?"

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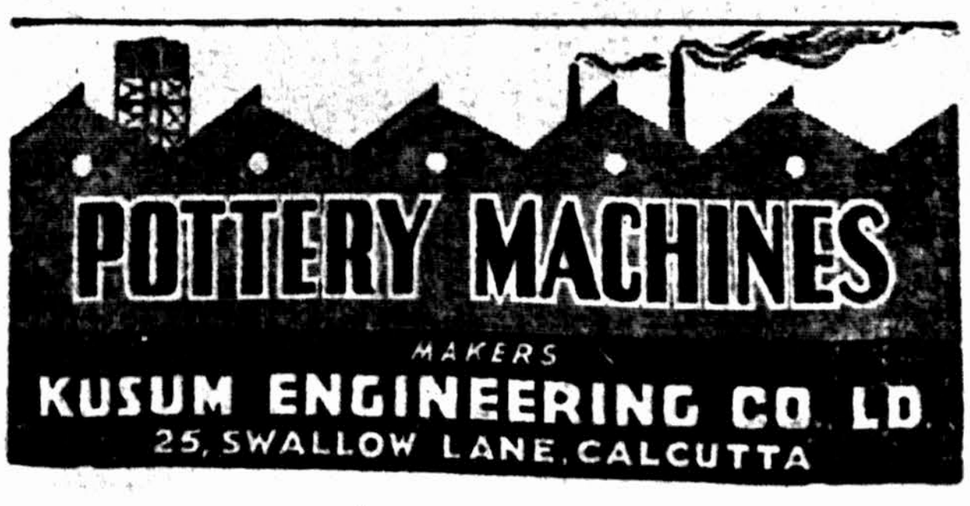

The LAST PAGE

Conducted by

CHRONICLER

"American news agencies do not report India from the Indian angle but only from the viewpoint of the British Government".

So says John Lewis, Managing Editor of the New York daily "P M", commenting on and confirming what the LAST PAGE wrote last week.

Indeed, he goes one step further and tells us how this Black-out works—at the instance of the British:

"While I hold no particular brief for Press Associations, it is my personal conviction that the reason for this is that sources of information, particularly about India, are controlled by the British, and beyond that British-controlled censorship controls outgoing dispatches."

In 1943, Mr. Lewis added "PM" was forced to reproduce a clipping from a Bombay newspaper to "show the facts on death caused by famine."

One needs no further substantiation of the charge made by the LAST PAGE.

"PM" is a radical newspaper.—perhaps the only important daily in the world which is free from the capitalistic control of advertisers. It carries no advertisements as it depends for its revenue only on its sales. Its attitude to India has been generally fair, and its views on world affairs are marked by a definitely progressive outlook. It is not surprising, therefore, that "PM" should endorse the "Chronicler's" remarks.

But some other American newspapers have not reacted so favourably which also is not surprising!

★

Tell Us Another!

Theodore Thackersey, Managing Editor of the "New York Post", commenting on the LAST PAGE'S criticism, told the U.P.A. that he believed a large number of newspapers and magazines are 'tremendously interested in India and making a keen effort to understand Indian problems and to present the Indian view-point." He added that India is getting "as good a press as possible in U.S.A. in view of the present world situation, tight communication controls and high cable tolls."

"India", he said, "is just beginning to let her aspirations be known throughout the world", and implied that the job of informing the world lies primarily with the Indian press. Finally, he suggested that the "Bombay Chronicle Weekly" would do better to present its plan for the solution of India's problems than to issue "a diatribe against the American press."

The Foreign Editor of another leading New York paper said his paper gives ample play to all important news from India. This Foreign Editor "will not permit his name to be quoted"—and no wonder, for one might then check up his statement by going through the files of his paper! However, he made an important point when he said "LITTLE NEWS IS COMING OUT OF INDIA." He further pointed out that war news is overshadowing everything else and that his paper is printing only one-tenth of foreign news not dealing with the war as compared with pre-war days.

I am afraid that, while appreciating the quick and friendly response, these explanations do not meet the criticism made on this page.

The only way I can be convinced that American newspapers (why drag in the magazines, Mr. Thackersey?) are "tremendously interested" in India is to be shown that Indian nationalist view-point is finding prominent news-space in the U. S. press.

The plea of "world situation" and "war news overshadowing everything else" does not hold water. For the issue of Indian freedom IS war news, it is one of the most important factors influencing the conduct of the war—and shaping of the peace that will follow it. Has any American newspaper told its readers that in 1942 the Indian National Congress was prepared to throw in the entire weight of the nationalist forces in the anti-Japanese war—IF INDIA WAS DECLARED FREE? Has any American newspaper told its readers that if India were free, and the nation mobilised under the people's leaders, it would not be necessary for boys from Ohio and Illinois and Poughkeepsie in such large numbers to be fighting and dying on the Burma front, because there would be millions of Indians to take their place? Is this not 'war news'? Is this not a matter of vital concern to the American people, to the millions of American mothers praying nightly for the safety of their warrior sons?

Have they been told that so long as Imperialism endures in India, there can be no hope for world peace, and no security for their sons and grandsons? Have they been told of the intense indignation felt in India against the white man's racialism and colour bar?

Have they been told that the so-called "representatives of India" who are going to attend the San Francisco Conference represent no one except the British Government that the entire Indian nation has repudiated them? Is this not a vital matter on which the American public must be informed?

Mr. Thackersey talks of "high cable tolls"—and expects us to take him seriously. No one thinks of "high cable tolls" when Baseball results and news of Hollywood divorces are cabled to hundreds of Indian newspapers! The question of high expense does not interfere with the daily flow of unimportant, trivial AMERICAN news to India; it only interferes with the flow of INDIAN news to America!

Tell us another, Mr. Thackersey!

★

Why?

The anonymous Foreign Editor also says that "Little news is coming out of India." Whose fault is that? There are two American news-agencies established in India, besides several special correspondents of important newspapers. Are they giving full "coverage" on Indian news? If not, why not?

It is possible, of course, that British censorship at the cable-head in India, on the one hand, and the high-pressure propagandist machinery maintained by Britain in U.S.A., on the other, are really responsible for this black-out on Indian news in the American press. If that is the case, then why not come out in the open and say so—as the 'PM" editor has done. It is no use talking in innuendoes while clearing one's position. On such a vital, sharp, clear-cut issue—Indian freedom against British imperialism—one has to choose one side or the other, if one is honest.

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An Offer

As regards Mr. Thackersey's "suggestion"—do we detect an attempt at side-tracking the issue?—that the "Bombay Chronicle Weekly" would do better to present its plan for the solution of India's problems, need one say that the "Chronicle" daily and weekly have been doing that for many, many years. Only Mr. Thackersey does not get to read what we write—thanks to the "communication controls" and "high cable tolls"! The opinions of the most obscure American newspapers and columnists are daily cabled to us and published here, but on how many occasions have our views been quoted in the American press?

Here is a sporting offer from "Chronicler" to Mr. Thackersey or any other American editor or news agency—a free article on THE TRUTH ABOUT INDIA, if he is prepared to publish it. And lest the 'high cable tolls" jeopardise the balance-sheet of the "Post", I will make it brief—shall we say a thousand words?

In view of the millions of words the "Chronicle Weekly" and the LAST PAGE have published on America (U.S.O.W.I. please confirm!), that is not much to expect in return.

★

Art Without Tears

Let me confess that I know very little about art—even less about Art! I am one of those ignoramuses who cannot get excited about Picasso's paintings for the simple reason that I simply can't make any sense out of most of them. I am low-brow enough to expect a plate of fruit, when reproduced on a canvas, to look like a plate of fruit, and not like the X-ray photograph of a pre-historical animal! Even the fact of Picasso having joined the Communist Party does not make his art comprehensible to me—and to millions of common people like me. I admire him for choosing the epic struggle of the Spanish people against Fascism as a theme for his 'Guernica" but I couldn't see the anti-Fascist struggle in that mural even when I saw the original in New York. That, of course, only proves my ignorance.

Nearer home, despite Beverley Nichols' tribute of dubious value, and the more valid compliment paid to him by Harin Chattopadhyaya, I cannot see in Jamini Roy what the connoisseurs see. Except a few sketches in which I can see and admire the artist's facile brush, the economy of lines and a warm human feeling, most of Jamini Roy's celebrated paintings appear to me like the doodling of a child. It is said he has adopted the folk tradition. It might be so and I am open to correction, but then I would like to see the folk—the common people—understanding and appreciating his work rather than the shark-skin-suit-and-gold-border-sari brigade of decadent art patrons and snobosseurs.

It was, therefore, not without misgivings that I went to see the exhibition of paintings and drawings by the Calcutta Group of Artists arranged by the People's Theatre at the Architectural Academy (Prospect Chambers, Hornby Road). It was not that I feared the paintings might be of a low standard, but that they might be too "high" for me. What I saw, however, was not entirely beyond my limited comprehension. I am sure that while the art critics and connoisseurs will, of course, find much to interest and intrigue—perhaps to provoke—them, the lay man, too, will find a visit to the exhibition not without profit. Indeed, these paintings give one the hope that art and the artists are at last coming to the people like us, instead of remaining a monopoly of the leisured-class aesthetes.

The several paintings and sculptures depicting scenes of Bengal famine are clear evidence of the revolutionary impact of the great tragedy on Indian art. Nirode Mazumdar's 'Orphan", Rathindra Moitra's "Destitutes", and Prodosh Dasgupta's sculpture "Destitute Mother and Child" are vivid and poignant. Some (like me) might wish that these artists had been even more brutally realistic in their treatment of famine themes—like Chitteprosad's and Zainulabedin's black-and-white sketches—but even what is there is enough to show that in the supreme hour of their people's anguish and suffering the Bengali artists did not shut themselves up in their ivory-towers, that they came out to serve their people through art instead of running away from reality.

Owing to transport difficulties, I am told, quite a number of paintings could not be brought to Bombay and, of course, to bring the sculptures was out of question. But even the photographs are enough to indicate the power and daring originality of Prodosh Dasgupta's sculptures. "The Highbrow" is an eloquent piece, summing up all the hideous traits of reaction and snobbery; "The Last Days Of Abyssinia" is a poignant reminder of that first lone stand against Fascist aggression; "Food Queue" has a topical significance, and "Instinct"—in three pieces—is provocatively daring and has already excited much controversy. But the "piece de resistance" is "war"—a grotesque, shapeless, headless mass strangling a child.

★

Rathin

Among the paintings, I was most impressed with the work of Rathindra Moitra who, incidentally, personally brought the paintings and is at present in Bombay. This tall, young, handsome artist, at 33, has achieved in his paintings both excellent draughtsmanship and a dynamic ideological content. Besides his two pictures of the destitutes—one small and the other big—his "The Bourgeoise" and "Middle Class" are worth seeing. They are a new experiment in biting social satire through the medium of art. "The Bourgeoise" has all the haughty arrogance, the stupidity, the utter callousness of that class, while "Middle Class" is an essay in the futility of gentility, of keeping up appearances, the self-conscious, snobbery of those Babus and Shrimatis who are too poor to climb up into "Society" and too proud to join the fraternity of the proletariat. "Policeman" is not only a comment on the robot-like, dehumanized traffic constable but also (one might say) a symbol of the deadlock in the country. For the guardian of law and order is holding up the flow of traffic!

"THE BOURGEOISE"
Socially significant satire

....as charming as a lady!

ON SMOKING & SMOKERS

By K. Rama Rao

A violent cigarette famine raged all over the country as soon as the new budget proposals containing a fresh taxation of tobacco were announced.

The famine was bigger and vaster than that of the Bengal famine of last year since it was an all-India affair and not confined to a single province. It was, however, as perfectly man-made as the Bengal famine. Last year's situation is rectifying itself in East India but as long as the war goes on, the new imposts are most unlikely to be removed. Meanwhile, despite controls, the black markets will flourish and habitual smokers are in for troublous times.

Unfortunately for us, some of our own people would welcome thumping duties on cigarettes, which they condemn as made of the forbidden leaf. In normally governed countries, a tax on tobacco means that the state is so prosperous that even the poor can afford to pay an extra bit to the public exchequer. But in this country such taxation is by no means a thermometer of national prosperity. It is the desperate trick of exiguous finance and bankrupt treasury officials.

* * *

By far the best comment on the taxation measure which has caused the universal famine was made by an educationist from Aligarh. "This budget", screamed Sir Ziauddin Ahmed, "imposes a strict regimen of non-smoking, compelling us all to become Sikhs". That comment was not only a literary flash but an outburst of righteous indignation on behalf of a loyal, law-abiding and hard-hit community. It appeared as if the non-smokers had played a dirty trick and consigned the smokers to the tender mercies of a heartless Finance Member.

The comment is, of course, a delicious exaggeration. Because they have to pay more, smokers are not going to give up their age-long habit. They would rather, like gamblers, sell themselves out of house and home than go without the weed. Parliaments have done many great things, but they cannot legislate a non-smoker into a smoker. Once a smoker, always a smoker. This is the law of the universe.

I am not sure whether Sir Ziauddin Ahmed is not talking like the duke in the story, who had found his domestic expenditure going up by leaps and bounds, like the war budgets of Sir Jeremy Raisman. He appointed an expert to explore avenues of retrenchment and economy. The expert suggested that the household contained too many cooks and butlers. The outraged duke promptly retorted: "You mean to tell me I should go even without a biscuit".

* * *

It does not follow that because you do not smoke, therefore you are going to become a Sikh. It would not be even a correct description of that great martial community. Actually, smoking is not prohibited for them in the same way it is prohibited for the Parsis. I do not find the taboo is on the same level as the five K's—Kesh, Kachh, Kirpan, Kangi and Kada. It must, however, have started as a precautionary measure and have become as sacred as a religious cannon. How can you smoke when you are born and baptised into a religious community which is out to fight everybody in the interests of its protestant faith? Starting as a religion of love, Sikhism became a religion of soldiers. So intensely popular are the Sikhs that Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya once suggested that every family should assign one of its sons to that community in the interests of national defence.

Sir Ziauddin Ahmed, moreover, is a very cantankerous individual. He must have read his Indian history much too deeply, and remembered the Sikhs and the Mahrattas rather too well as the men who brought down the Moghul Empire and would have completely taken over the rule of India if a kindly providence had not intervened on behalf of the British and among others incidentally installed the most nicotines loving people in the world as the rulers of Hindustan.

Is smoking the offence and the sin that some people want us to believe it is? Of course, we hear of the "smoker's heart", but I fear it is due to excessive smoking. And excesses are to be condemned in any case. In our school days we were given, magic lantern lectures in which the evils of smoke and drink were vividly projected on the screen. But would come out a green patch very obligingly, and that patch was supposed to have been created in the chest or the lungs by the smoke inhaled. Smokers can be reckless at times, for I know the case of a friend who slept as he was smoking in his bed and woke up only when half the room was in conflagration.

* * *

That nicotine is a nerve-soother if taken in moderate quantities and is as charming as a lady, no honest man can deny. Can anyone take the risk of stopping that most useful product of modern civilisation, namely the newspaper, for there can be no newspaper without a journalist smoking like a chimney the whole night as he wakes up and works at top-speed, while the world is asleep and works like a galley-slave to keep the ship of modern life going. The smoking habit begins as a fashion and ends as an encumbrance, a delightful encumbrance nevertheless.

As a social institution, smoking has conspicuous virtues in it. It is only the Parsis and the Sikhs that are forbidden to smoke, the former because they are fire-worshippers and according to them fire must not be polluted by tobacco. But that ancient injunction is being slowly disregarded, for you find more Parsis smoking to-day than ever before. Islam forbids drink with terrific intolerance but it is, happily silent on the matter of smoke. I have a suspicion that the hooka is an Islamic importation into India.

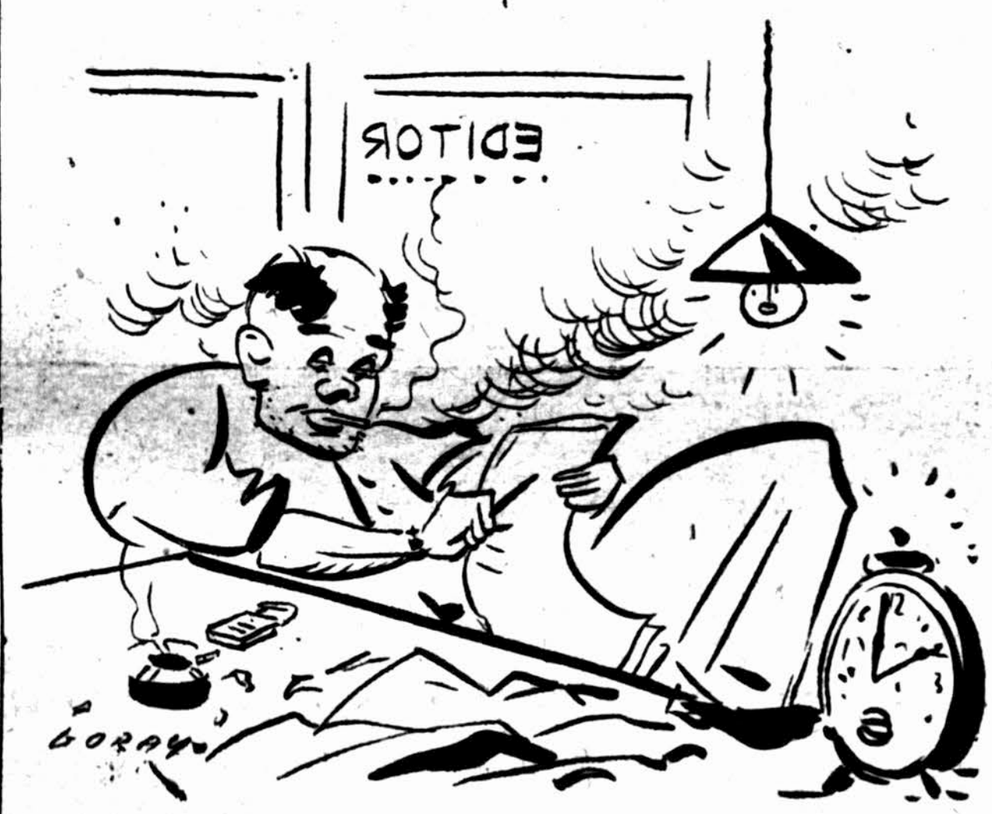
I cannot quote instances, but I do think that the ancient rishis of this country either used tobacco or its nearest substitute. After all Sir Walter Raleigh only discovered it in America and brought it to Europe. He by any means invented it. It nevertheless remains true that tobacco is out of favour among Sanatanist Hindus, at least officially. It is why some of them are heard to express a sneaking fondness for that great Aryan and abstemious brahmachari, Adolf Hitler. "Nasyam Sabha Pujyitam". You can snuff in a sabha, but you must not smoke, runs a social edict. But if anyone would convince me that snuffing is not the dirtier habit of the two, I would give him a royal prize.

* * *

As a cementing factor, what is there to beat the "hooka"? And very cheap too. A great moulvi of Delhi once met Lor Willingdon and being a very tough person started a violent tirade against British rule. (I had the story from him direct). "Look here, Your Excellency. See how you have ruined our social institutions and habits. With one pice of "thambakku", a whole crowd of us can smoke, for a good half-hour, a delightful hooka. We sit round like a band of brothers. Now what have you done. You have introduced cigarettes into this country, and everyone smokes for himself. And this cigarette is the very hallmark of individualism which is so alien to our traditions of life".

Once I was travelling between Lucknow and Allahabad. As a number of people were passing the "hooka" round, a young fellow, an utter stranger, demanded it for himself. "Thum kaun ho?" retorted an elderly person outraged by the demand. Out came the reply: "Mein be Thakur hum". Immediate recognition followed and the "hooka" was passed on to him.

You cannot think of high politics without the smoke, whether it be dead Birkenhead or the living Churchill. I do hope that Maulana Azad, a tremendous chain-smoker, is getting his cigarettes in jail. I am told that the first thing that Mahatma Gandhi does, as soon as the Maulana enters his presence, is to put an ash-tray before him. Jawaharlal Nehru smokes pretty heavily, but he does not smoke in the presence of the Mahatma. The laws and usages of this country are very strict. Children must not smoke before their parents.



A journalist smoking like a chimney.

"The war has certainly changed things. Now I have a sailor in every port!"

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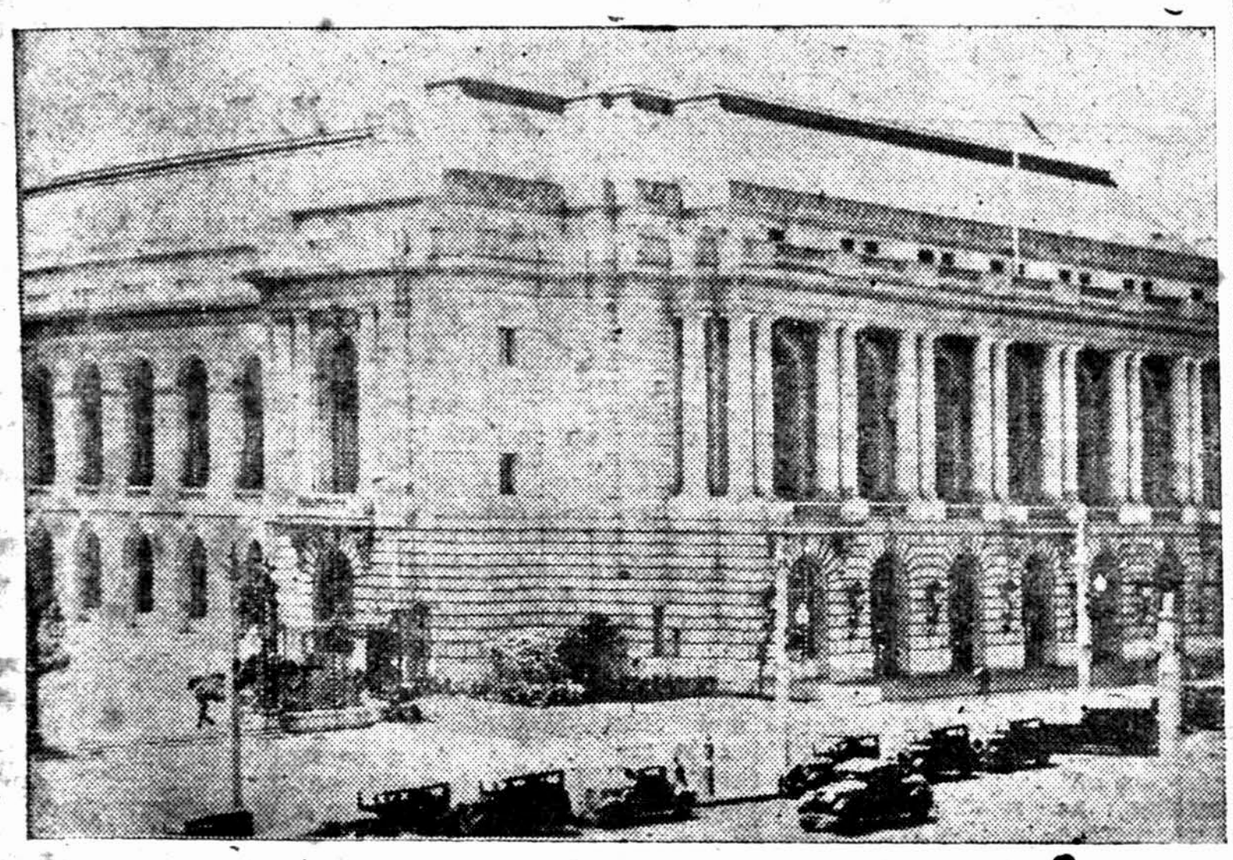
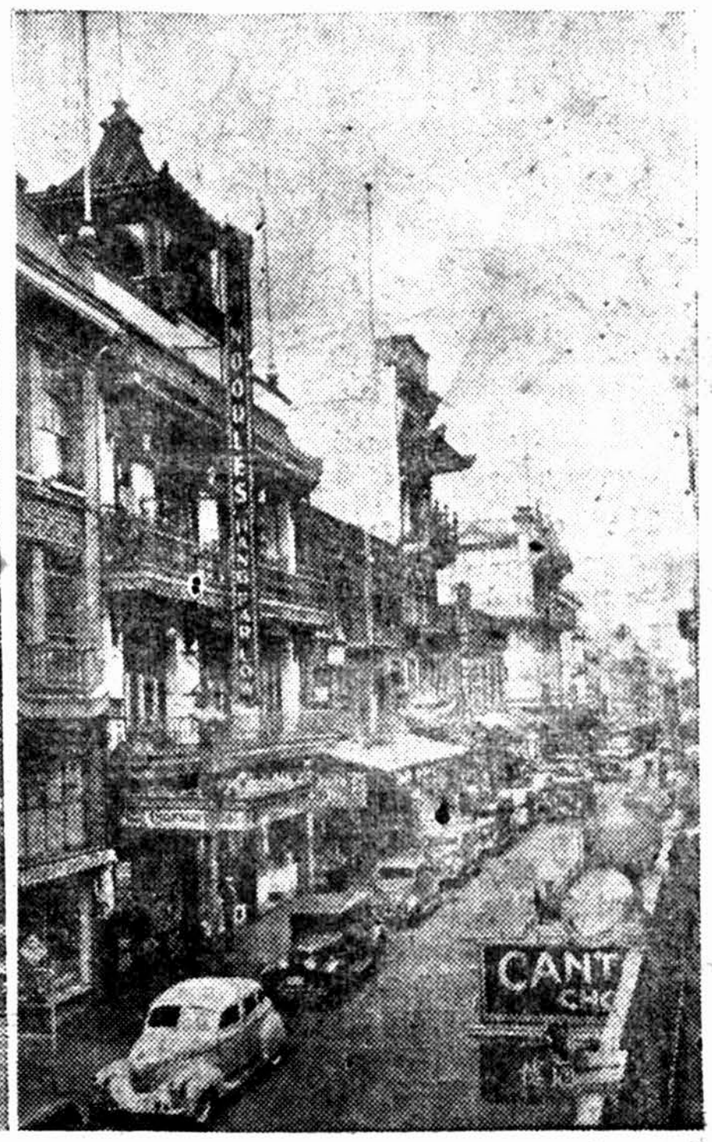
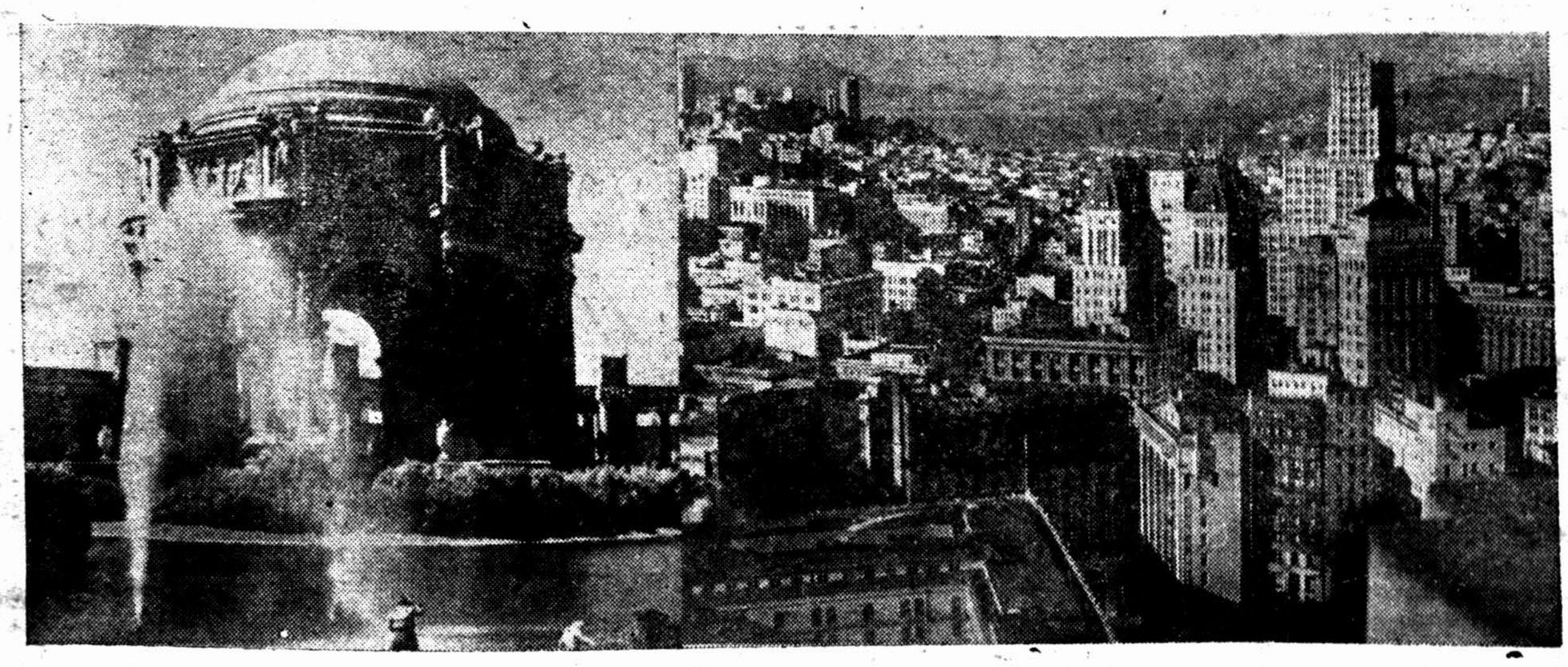
Where The United Nations Will Meet

Scenes From San Francisco

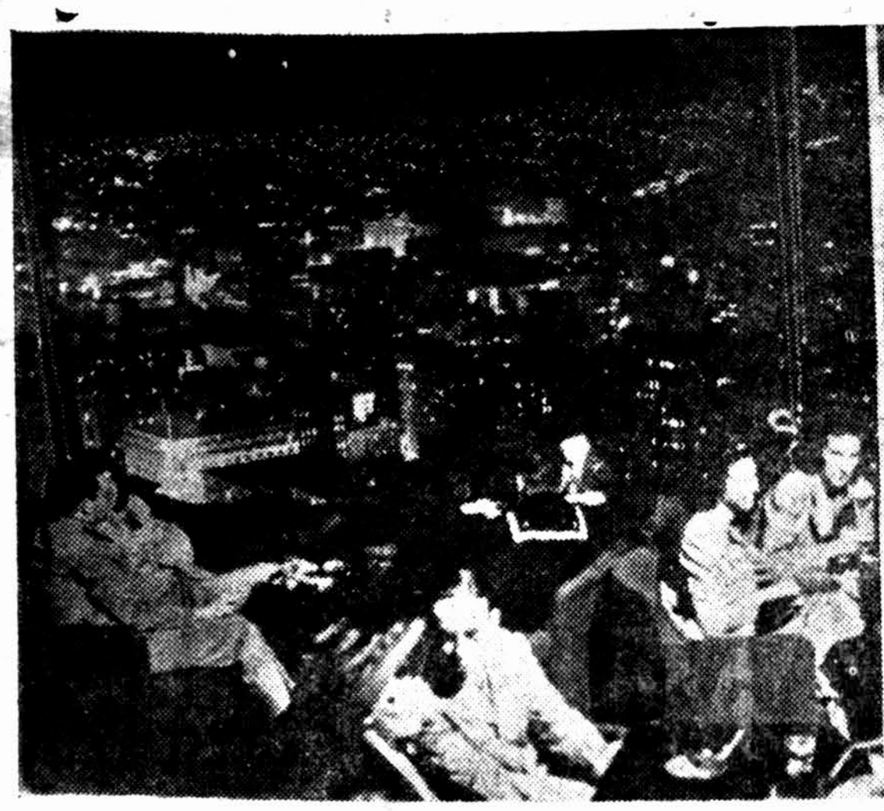




The Veterans' War Memorial Building in the heart of San Francisco will be the scene of the United Nations Security Conference, scheduled to open on April 25 in San Francisco. Its auditorium seats more than 1,000 persons, and its 17 meeting rooms will provide the setting for committee sessions and other conferences. Plenary sessions will convene in the San Francisco Opera House. (Right): San Francisco's Chinese settlement is the largest outside the Orient. It is a section of pagoda roofs and iron-grilled balconies, Chinese theatres and temples, flower stands and shrines. Shops and bazaars sell porcelains, lacquer work, and exotic jewellery.



The Palace of Fine Arts near San Francisco's waterfront was built for the 1915 exposition which celebrated the opening of the Panama Canal. The Canal's completion made San Francisco more accessible to the Atlantic Ocean and contributed greatly to San Francisco's present status as one of the largest U. S. ports. (Right): This downtown view of the business section of San Francisco shows the tall buildings which front the Bay, looking toward the cities of Oakland and Berkeley, site of the University of California.



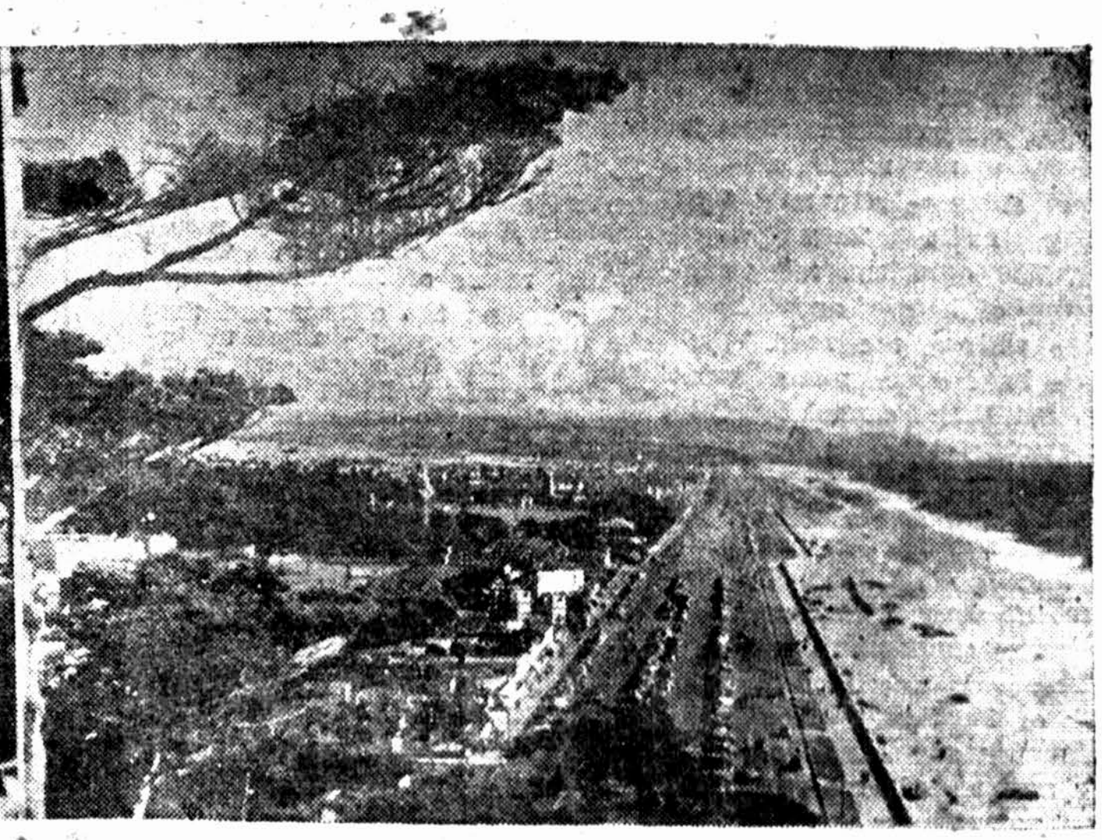


Plate glass windows which substitute for walls at the 'Top O' the Mark", a night club on top of the 20-story Mark Hopkins Hotel, provide a sparkling view of the city of San Francisco at night. (Right): This magnificent stretch of sandy beach is a 20-minute drive from the heart of San Francisco Here San Franciscans may swim and sun-bathe in the long summer season, which lasts from May until October. *(Photos—U. S. O. W. I.)*

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